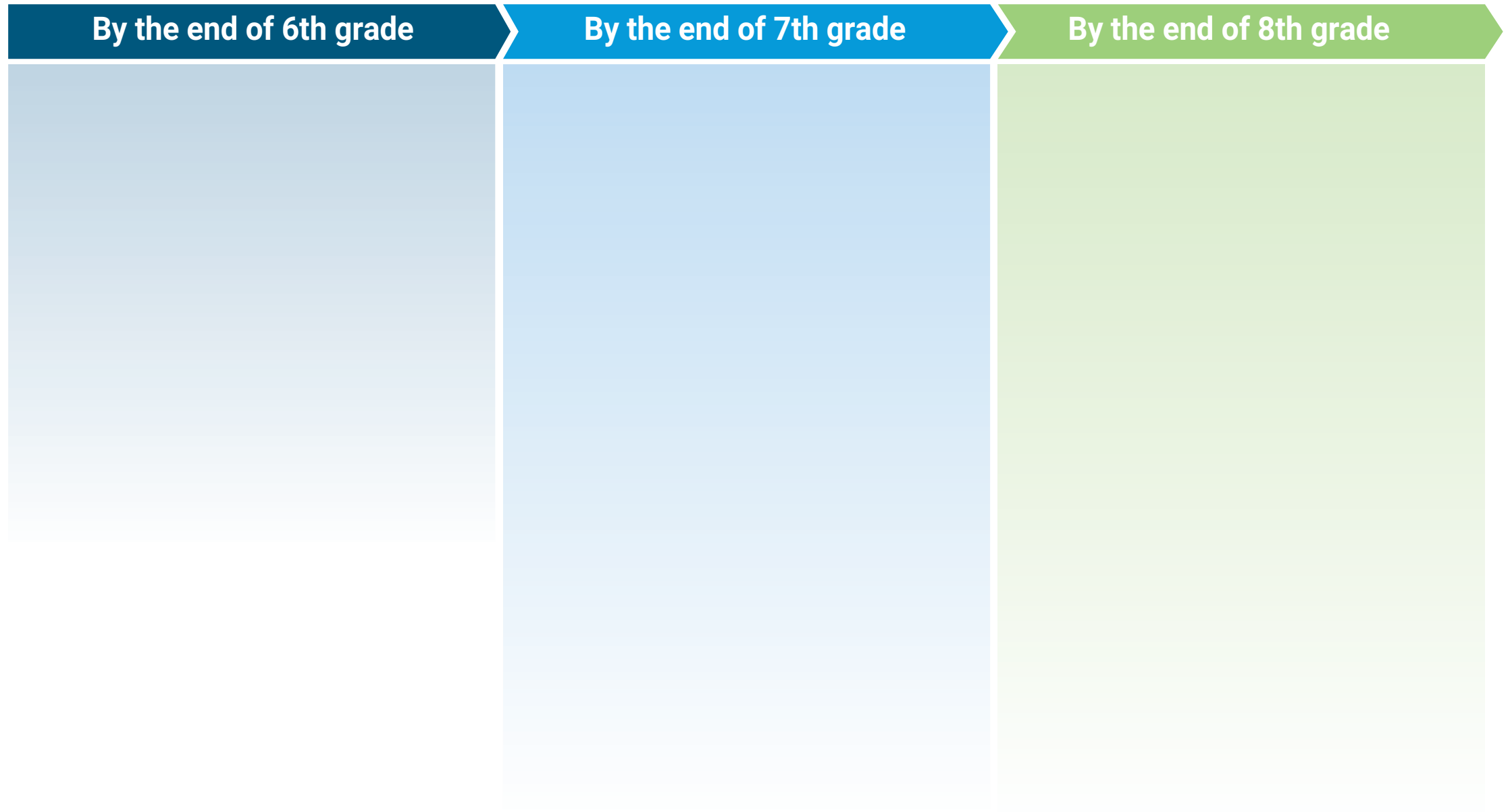


Postsecondary and Career Expectations

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.



Central CUSD #3



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 9th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career cluster survey
- complete a career interest survey
- participate in an opportunity to develop public speaking skills
- learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- select coursework for PS/career plans aligned with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs)
- outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- understand the various aspects of personal banking

A student should know:

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

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- compare and contrast personal strengths and weakness with career choice
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection process
- understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes

A student should know:

- one or two careers for further exploration
- skills related to career interests
- educational requirements, cost, expected entry-level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- different types of PS credentials and institutions
- how salary impacts standard of living
- general cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- enroll as appropriate in early college credit courses
- complete a college fit/match inventory
- connect with a mentor
- attend a college fair
- meet with a college admissions representative
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
- create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources

A student should know:

- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- how to find scholarship opportunities

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- revisit the career interest survey
- visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- learn about financial wellness
- understand how to be a responsible borrower
- understand the timeline of the financial aid process
- understand the student loan process and available loan options

A student should know:

- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study
- the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- estimated cost of chosen PS options
- financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By 12/31, a student should have:

- 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

