Illinois PaCE: Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help them make career and college decisions, 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
- select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest
- begin determining eligibility for AP courses

A student should know:
- one or two career clusters for further exploration
- the relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals

By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:
- visit at least one workplace aligned to career interests
- complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest
- begin determining eligibility for AP courses

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

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:
- 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

A student should know:
- app deadlines, test timing, cost, and prep for industry-based certification for CP
- career attributes related to career interests

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:
- attend a college affordability workshop with adult family member
- attend a college fair
- take at least one college entrance exam

A student should know:
- benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and PS plans

By the end of 12th grade

A student should have:
- completed 3 or more admission applications to PS institutions
- met with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admission process are completed on time
- attended a FAFSA completion workshop

By the end of 12th grade a student should be supported to:
- address any remedial needs in Math/ELA
- obtain an internship opportunity relating to CP
- if applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) relating to CP

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 11th grade

A student should be supported to:
- visit at least one workplace aligned to career interests
- complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest
- begin determining eligibility for AP courses

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 college entrance exams and apps

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:
- 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

A student should know:
- benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and PS plans

By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:
- complete a career cluster survey
- attend a career exploration day
- complete a unit on education planning
- be exposed to a finance literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should know:
- the concept of career clusters for further exploration
- possible career clusters of interest
- relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals

By the end of 8th grade

Career Exploration and Development

College Exploration, Preparation, and Selection

Financial Aid and Literacy

By the end of 8th grade

A student should be supported to:
- complete a career cluster survey
- attend a career exploration day
- complete a unit on education planning
- be exposed to a finance literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should know:
- the concept of career clusters for further exploration
- possible career clusters of interest
- relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals