

I'm a
SCHOLAR

21st Century Scholars:

Parent and Family Manual

COLLEGE PLANNING

21st Century
SCHOLARS
INDIANA

CAREER SUCCESS

Dear Parents and Families,

We know you want the best for your Scholar, and now is the time to start thinking about your Scholar's future. At the beginning of each year, sit down with your Scholar and review the 21st Century Scholars requirements for the upcoming school year. Look at each of the three Scholar Success Program (SSP) requirements for the school year and review the Scholar Pledge, too.

Read through this manual to learn about some of the ways you can help your Scholar complete each SSP requirement. There are also worksheets included so you and your Scholar know what questions will be asked in ScholarTrack. Talk with your Scholar about what he or she learned by completing the activities. And remember, Scholars must track their SSP completion via ScholarTrack. For information on creating a ScholarTrack account, see the next page.

If you need any assistance, please contact your Regional Outreach Coordinator [here](#), or contact the Student Support Center at 1-888-528-4719 or Scholars@che.IN.gov.

Thank you for supporting your Scholar's future.

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SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Create a ScholarTrack Account

GET STARTED: Go to Scholars.IN.gov/scholartrack to access the sign-in page.

- 1) Click **GREEN TAB** for NEW STUDENT ACCOUNT.
- 2) Enter **Scholar ID number & Date of Birth** – Scholar ID is printed on Scholar’s index card/slip of paper.
 - a. It is helpful to provide Scholars with their Scholar ID in advance. If not, Scholars may look up their Scholar ID on our website and will need their Social Security Number (SSN).
- 3) Click **PROCEED**.
- 4) Update personal information.
 - ➔ Scholar should review personal information and make any necessary changes.
 - ➔ Make sure Scholar updates his or her email address to an active email address (email address is used for login).
- 5) Click **NEXT PAGE** and verify personal information.
- 6) Scholar will create NEW PASSWORD
 - ➔ **Make sure student records password.**
 - ➔ Student will need to create or have an active email address he or she can use to log in to ScholarTrack. **Once a ScholarTrack account is created, the student can later change or update his or her email address.**

Student will now be able to login using EMAIL and PASSWORD he or she created.

If the following appears, encourage students to contact the Student Support Center at 1-888-528-4719 or at Scholars@che.IN.gov:

- ➔ **If....Student receives message-*Account already created*** ➔ It means ScholarTrack account has already been created.
- ➔ **If....Student receives message-*Scholar ID cannot be found*** ➔ It means there is information on the 21st Century Scholar Database that is not matching with information entered to create the ScholarTrack Account.
- ➔ **If.....Student receives message-*ScholarTrack is broken-(sorry)*** ➔ It means student will not be able to proceed with creating a ScholarTrack Account.



9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Create a Graduation Plan

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 9 will develop their Graduation Plans for high school to ensure that they stay on track to receive a Core 40 Diploma or one with Academic or Technical Honors and, ultimately, to reach their college and career goals.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Make an appointment with your student's school counselor for you and your student to go over your student's Graduation Plan.** According to Indiana law, beginning in grade 9, school counselors are required to assist students in developing their Graduation Plan in consultation with the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). If your student's counselor does not initiate discussion about your student's Graduation Plan when you and/or your student meet to plan your student's 9th grade courses, do not hesitate to contact the counselor to schedule a Graduation Plan meeting. Feel free to follow up as needed throughout the year if you or your student have questions.
- **Remember, your student should review and update his/her Graduation Plan in 10th, 11th and 12th grades too.** Set reminders for you and your student to revisit the Graduation Plan at the end of 9th grade and throughout your student's high school career.
- **Sit down and talk with your student about his/her Graduation Plan.** Discuss the different Core 40 Diploma types and help your student think about which would be best for him/her. Discuss your student's career interests and plans and the types of postsecondary institutions—colleges and universities—he/she would like to explore. Look over the Core 40 Diploma requirements together and help your student map out a four-year course plan based on the type of diploma he/she wants to pursue.
- **Create a free account with *Indiana Career Explorer* (IndianaCareerExplorer.com) to better support your student's education and career planning and to assist him/her with the Graduation Plan.** *Indiana Career Explorer* provides parents of middle and high school students with a free account to learn more about the resources available through the site and how to help students with each stage of the career planning process. Once you create your account, you can view your student's portfolio and Graduation Plan, review year-by-year tasks related to educational and career planning, and learn about other resources to help your student explore education and career choices.
- **Encourage your student to keep track of his/her Graduation Plan online via *Indiana Career Explorer*.** If your student has not yet set up an *Indiana Career Explorer* account, help him/her do so at IndianaCareerExplorer.com. Once your student has an account, he/she can access the Graduation Plan by clicking on the blue "My Portfolio" tab and then "Indiana Graduation Plan."
- **If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, encourage your student to use a school or friend's computer, or a nearby public library to work on his/her Graduation Plan on Indiana Career Explorer.** He/she can also download and print a paper version: LearnMoreIndiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Graduation-Plan-2016-17-FINAL.pdf.



9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Create a Graduation Plan

Create a Graduation Plan:

In 9th grade, you must create a high school Graduation Plan that keeps you on track to earn a Core 40 Diploma, meet college admission requirements and prepare for your future career. A Graduation Plan helps you understand what courses, tests and related steps you need to complete in high school, so you have a clear path to graduation and a solid academic foundation to achieve your college and career goals. You'll update your Graduation Plan each year as your plans for after high school continue to develop.

Here's the information you'll need to gather before you start your Graduation Plan. Talk to your counselor, parents or teachers if you need help.

- ✓ The diploma you intend to earn, the classes you'll take to earn it and the tests you'll need to take
- ✓ Your high school course plan
- ✓ Your career interest assessment results if you have completed a career interest assessment
- ✓ Your college and career plans

1. Did you complete your Graduation Plan online or on paper?

Online

Paper

2. When did you complete your Graduation Plan?

3. Did anyone (school counselor, parent, mentor, etc.) help you complete your Graduation Plan? If so, please specify who.

Yes

No

Please specify from whom you received help →(e.g., School Counselor)

4. What type of diploma do you intend to earn?

Note: Scholars must earn at least a Core 40 Diploma.

5. How did this activity help you plan your high school courses?

Scholars should update their Graduation Plan each year to make sure they stay on track to achieve their college and career goals.



9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 9 will participate in an extracurricular or service activity at school or in the community.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Talk to your student about his/her interests and skills.** Ask your student questions like: *What activities do you enjoy? What are you good at? What are you interested in learning more about?* From there, help your student explore extracurricular and service activities at school and in your community. Contact your student's school for a list of school-based extracurricular activities.
- **Encourage your student to pursue an extracurricular or service activity related to his/her hobbies, skills, passions and career interests.** For instance, if your student enjoys working with children, encourage him/her to look into volunteering as a tutor, coach, daycare assistant or summer camp counselor.
- **Encourage your student to pay attention to school announcements, bulletins and the school's website** for information about callout meetings for extracurricular activities.
- **Before your student selects an extracurricular or service activity, make sure you both understand the commitment involved.** Since extracurricular activities usually take place outside of school hours, transportation to and from activities may be necessary. Other requirements, such as a physical or parent/guardian consent form, may also be required.
- **If transportation to and from activities presents an issue for your family, brainstorm ideas for alternative transportation with your student,** such as carpooling, a local bus, or asking other family members or friends for assistance.
- **Help your student explore service activities in the community. Make a list of places in the community where your student might volunteer and contact them** to ask about volunteer opportunities for students. Ideas include: food bank or soup kitchen; public library; animal shelter or veterinary clinic; nursing home or assisted living facility; local hospital and healthcare clinics; churches; youth-serving organizations; summer camps; preschools, daycares, and elementary schools; homeless shelter; garden center; environmental organizations; other community and nonprofit organizations.
- **Stress balance and commitment when it comes to being involved in extracurricular and service activities.** While it is important for your student to get involved in activities outside the classroom, schoolwork should remain your student's first priority. Being involved in too many activities can affect your student's grades, so encourage him/her to choose one or two activities and commit to them.



9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity

1. Describe the extracurricular or service activity you participated in.

- ✓ Extracurricular activities can include band, chorus, athletics, theater, student newspaper and yearbook staff, student council, variety of clubs, etc.
 - ✓ Activities can be through church, a local youth organization or community center.
 - ✓ Service activities—commonly known as “volunteering” or “community service”—are any unpaid volunteer efforts that benefit a specific group or the wider community.
-

2. What was the name of the group or organization you participated with?

School, community rec league, community center, church, local agency, etc.

3. When did you participate in this extracurricular or service activity?

Select a month and a year you participated in this activity. If it is a year-round activity, choose a month and year to report.

4. How many total hours did you spend on this activity?

Report weekly or monthly hours. When reporting online, enter whole numbers. The system will not select ½ hours. Do not include the word “hours.”

5. Who can verify that you participated in this activity?

If this is a school activity, include teacher/coach name. When reporting online, only input first and/or last name, no punctuation marks.

6. Who told you about this extracurricular or service activity?

Friend, school counselor, parent, mentor, etc.

7. How did this activity help your personal growth or career exploration?



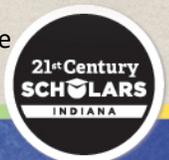
9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Watch “Paying for College 101”

Scholars in Grade 9 should begin thinking about the costs of college as well as how to save and manage money.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Watch “Paying for College 101” with your student.** Viewing the module together may spark important conversations about paying for college, saving and managing money, and the financial aid process. Together, you and your student can work through any questions you have about financing a college education. To access the video, go to: youtube.com/watch?v=N_5T668cvdU.
- **If your family does not have a computer with Internet access at home, help your student find one he or she can use** to watch “Paying For College 101,” whether it is at school, a public library, your place of employment, or a friend or family member’s house.
- **Together, brainstorm some questions that you and your student have about paying for college,** whether about types of aid available, the costs of different colleges, budgeting, saving, the steps of the financial aid process or your student’s 21st Century Scholarship. Seek answers to your questions together. Contact the [Regional Outreach Coordinator](#) for your region with questions regarding your 21st Century Scholarship. Do research online. IndianaCollegeCosts.org is a great resource for Indiana students and families, providing a wealth of information about the financial aid process, understanding college costs and saving money for college.
- **Engage your student in a discussion about what they learned in “Paying for College 101.”** Make sure both you and your student understand the requirements for earning and keeping the 21st Century Scholarship and what the scholarship does and does not cover. Talk about how your student and your family plan to save money for college and budget accordingly. Discuss the steps your student—and you—will need to take throughout high school to be prepared to pay for college.
- **With your student, research what it costs to attend different colleges and universities in Indiana.** Go to IndianaCollegeCosts.org to explore Indiana colleges and compare costs of attendance.
- **Encourage your student to focus on his/her schoolwork and earn good grades.** In order for your student to be eligible to receive the 21st Century Scholarship and to increase his/her chances of earning other merit-based scholarships, your student will need to maintain a solid grade point average (GPA), at least 2.5 or above. Grades are also a key factor in determining a student’s admission to—and financial aid from—a college or university.
- **Encourage your student to work toward a Core 40 Diploma with Academic or Technical Honors.** The type of diploma a student earns matters when it comes to financial aid. An Honors diploma will increase your student’s chances of earning more aid from colleges and the state of Indiana.
- **Sit down as a family and create a household budget.** For steps on how to create a budget, visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost. On this site you can find links to other free resources that can help with budgeting. Talk about areas where each member of your family can budget and save money.
- **Start saving money for college.** Consider opening up a tax-free Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan (CollegeChoiceDirect.com). Even a small contribution each month will make a difference when it comes time to pay for college.



9th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Watch “Paying for College 101”

1. Which of the following resources are available to help pay for college? (Check all that apply.)

- Scholarships Grants Institutional Aid
 Work Savings

2. As a Scholar, I must do the following to receive the 21st Century Scholarship: (Check all that apply.)

- Graduate with a Core 40 diploma from an Indiana high school
 Complete the Scholar Success Program
 Achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
 Not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime or delinquent act
 Apply for college admission and financial aid on-time as a high school senior

3. As a Scholar, I really don't need to worry about searching for other scholarships since the total cost to go to college will be paid for with the 21st Century Scholarship.

- True, the 21st Century Scholarship will pay for all of my college costs.
 False, the 21st Century Scholarship only pays for tuition and mandatory fees. Room and board, books, and other costs are not covered.

4. When should I start searching for scholarships?

- During senior year of high school
 After I have picked out the college I want to attend
 In the 9th grade and throughout high school

5. What can I do now to start planning for college? (Check all that apply.)

- Keep my grades up Take rigorous high school classes
 Study and practice for the SAT/ACT Don't give up
 Ask for help from school, college and community resources

6. What is the name of the important form that I have to file during my senior year in high school in order to be eligible for federal and state financial aid?

- College Application
 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 Senior Affirmation Form
 Net Price Calculator

7. How did “Paying for College 101” help you understand how to afford a college education?



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Take a Career Interests Assessment

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 10 will take a career interest assessment through *Indiana Career Explorer* (IndianaCareerExplorer.com) or another career software program. This assessment will help them to identify their interests and skills and understand how these could translate into a specific career field.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Talk with your student about his/her interests and skills.** Help your student make a list of what he/she likes to do and is good at doing. If your student needs help identifying his/her interests and skills, ask questions like: *What do you enjoy doing? What things do you spend a lot of time doing or practicing? What do other people say you are good at doing? What things do others ask you to help them with?*
- **Create a free account with *Indiana Career Explorer* (IndianaCareerExplorer.com) to better support your student's education and career planning.** *Indiana Career Explorer* provides parents of middle and high school students with a free account to learn more about the resources available through this site and how to help students with each stage of the career planning process. Once you create your account, you can view your student's portfolio, review year-by-year tasks related to educational and career planning, and learn about other resources that can help your student explore his/her education and career choices.
- **Encourage your student to take a career interest assessment on *Indiana Career Explorer*.** If your student has not yet set up an *Indiana Career Explorer* account, help him/her do so at IndianaCareerExplorer.com.
- **If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, encourage your student to use a computer at school, a friend's house or a nearby public library** to take an online career interest assessment and conduct other career-related research.
- **Explore careers with your student based on the results of his/her career interest assessment.** Talk with your student about his/her results and career path suggestions. Help your student research these careers and learn about the training and postsecondary education needed, earnings and current job prospects. In addition to the career exploration resources available via *Indiana Career Explorer*, check out the following resources with your student:
 - **The Department of Workforce Development's *Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs*** (HoosierHot50.com)
 - **The Bureau of Labor Statistics' *A-Z List of Careers*** (BLS.gov/k12/azlist.htm) and ***Occupational Outlook Handbook*** (BLS.gov/ooh/)
 - **"Explore Careers" on College Board's *Big Future* site** (BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org/explore-careers)



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Take a Career Interests Assessment

A career interest assessment is a series of questions that will help you identify careers that align with your interests and goals. Taking the assessment now will give you a head start to figuring out what you may like to study in college and what career path may be a good fit for you.

Follow these steps:

- ✓ **Think about your interests and skills—make a list!** Take a moment to consider what you like to do and what you are good at doing (and what others say you are good at doing).
- ✓ **Go to IndianaCareerExplorer.com.** If you've forgotten your username or password, follow the steps to retrieve your login information. If it is your first time using Indiana Career Explorer, follow the instructions to register as a new user.
- ✓ **Take the Kuder® Career Interests Assessment.** There are three assessments available. To complete the requirement, you must take the assessment labeled "Career Interests Assessment." You're encouraged to complete all three questionnaires to get a better idea of what interests you, what you do well and what is important to you in a career.

Tip:

- ✓ Consider taking these assessments throughout high school. With Indiana Career Explorer, you can retake the career interest inventory any time you want. Taking the assessments at each grade level will allow you to see which of your interests, skills and work values—if any—have changed and which have remained the same.

How did you complete your career interest assessment?

- Online using Indiana Career Explorer Other (please specify)

When did you complete the career interest assessment? _____

Did anyone (school counselor, parent, mentor, etc.) help you complete your career interest assessment?

- Yes No

Did the career interest assessment help you identify jobs or careers that you hadn't previously considered?

- Yes No

Did the career interest assessment help you identify the credential or degree you would need for the jobs you are interested in?

- Yes No

Did the career interest assessment help you better understand the importance of preparing now for college entrance tests?

- Yes No

Did the career interest assessment help you better understand the importance of researching how much college costs and the various ways to pay for it?

- Yes No

Have you reviewed or updated your Graduation Plan to make sure the courses you are taking now and plan to take, and the diploma you intend to receive align with the certification or degree you will need after high school?

- Yes No



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Get Workplace Experience

For this requirement, Scholars will get workplace experience by job shadowing, completing an internship—or even getting a part-time job—in order to learn more about career fields and careers that interest them. Students can also interview a professional in a field in which they are interested.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Talk to your student about his/her career interests and goals.** If your student has not yet completed a career interest assessment (see “Take a Career Interests Assessment” SSP requirement) encourage him/her to do so at IndianaCareerExplorer.com. Based on your student’s career interests and results, help him/her explore job shadowing, internship and/or part-time jobs.
- **Have your student interview a professional.** Encourage your student to research professionals in a career field of interest. Help your student set up an interview and prepare questions.
- **Reach out to friends, relatives, neighbors and other acquaintances** who have careers that interest your student and ask about job shadowing, internships and/or part-time job opportunities.
- **Together with your student, research different types of jobs, companies and organizations in your area.** If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, use a computer at a public library. If you need assistance, ask a librarian to help you research.
- **Encourage your student to meet with his/her school counselor** to see if they have any resources to help students connect to internships, job shadowing and/or part-time job opportunities.
- **Help your student to reach out to other caring adults in his/her life to ask about internships, job shadowing and/or part-time job opportunities.** Students can talk to relatives, friends’ parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and other caring adults to see if they have ideas. They may be able to help guide your student’s search and connect him/her with professionals in fields of interest.
- **Encourage your student to call, check online or visit local businesses and organizations to ask about internships, job shadowing and/or part-time job opportunities.** Keep in mind that although companies may not have established internship programs, they might be willing to create a position for your student or allow your student to job shadow. Encourage him/her to be assertive and ask!
- **Help your student arrange transportation.** If you are unable to provide transportation for your student, look into alternatives such as other family members, friends or a local bus.
- **If your student does elect to work part-time, sit down as a family and talk** about strategies for juggling schoolwork, a part-time job, activities and responsibilities. Discuss as a family how much time your student can realistically devote to a job. Help your student keep in mind that his/her first job is to be a high school student. A job should not interfere with studying and homework.
- **If your student does choose to work, he/she will need to obtain a work permit through his/her school district.** Encourage your student to talk to his/her counselor about obtaining a work permit.
- **Help your student develop a résumé and learn how to prepare for an interview.** Regardless of whether your student will need to have a résumé or will be asked to interview for a part-time job or internship, these skills will come in handy for future job opportunities. Check out these resources to help students write a résumé and prepare for a job interview: LearnMoreIndiana.org/resume-and-interview-tips.



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Get Workplace Experience

Workplace experience helps you gain a better sense of what a certain job or workplace is like. To complete this activity, you must participate in workplace experience/exploration during your 10th-grade year of high school. For instance, if you think you want to be a veterinarian, contact your local veterinary clinic and ask if you can interview or shadow the doctor or technician for a day. If you're interested in being a chef, try getting a part-time job in a restaurant.

1. What type of workplace experience did you participate in?

2. Describe the workplace experience you participated in.

3. What was the name of the organization or company you participated with?

4. When did you participate in this workplace experience?

5. How many total hours did you spend on this activity?

6. Who can verify that you participated in this activity?

Name: _____

Email and/or Phone: _____

7. Who told you about this workplace experience opportunity? (Examples: friend, school counselor, parent, etc.).

8. How did this activity help your personal growth or career exploration?



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Estimate the Costs of College

Estimating college costs in Grade 10 will help Scholars understand, early on, what specific Indiana colleges and universities will cost them and their families.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Watch “Estimating your College Costs” with your student.** This video will help your student understand the various costs associated with going to college and how to use the Indiana College Costs Estimator. Watch this video at: youtube.com/watch?v=1xuYMfQTXw8
- **Help your student complete the Indiana College Costs Estimator.** You can access the College Costs Estimator at IndianaCollegeCosts.org. Students will need to have the following information on hand to complete the College Costs Estimator and get the most accurate results:
 - Parent and student tax forms (1040EZ, 1040A, or 1040) and/or W-2s
 - Parent and student untaxed income information
 - Parent and student asset information
 - Parent business and/or farm records, if available.
- **Sit down with your student and work through the College Costs Estimator together.**
 - **Go to IndianaCollegeCosts.org** to access the Indiana College Costs Estimator.
 - **Before your student launches the Estimator tool, he/she should create an account.** This will allow your student to have his/her information automatically saved as he/she works through the tool. It will also allow your student to return to the tool any time to update/review information, run “what-if” scenarios, and conduct more side-by-side college comparisons.
 - **Start the College Costs Estimator and calculate Expected Family Contribution (EFC).** This part of the College Costs Estimator is divided into six sections:
 1. *Demographics.* Students will provide basic demographic information.
 2. *Student Info.* Students will provide additional information about themselves and respond to a series of yes/no questions to determine their dependency status.
 3. *Family.* Students will provide information about their primary household and the parent(s)/step-parent who live in their household.
 4. *Student Finances.* If students earned money in a job, they will provide information from their own tax forms about their income. They will also need to provide information about any untaxed income, income adjustments and their personal assets.
 5. *Parent Finances.* Students will provide information from their parents’ tax forms about their income. They will also provide information about parents’ untaxed income and personal or business assets.
 6. *Academics.* Students will answer questions about their academic standing and performance, including GPA, test scores, class size and class rank.



- **Understand the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) figure.** After completing these six sections and receiving an EFC, read about what an EFC is and how it effects your family and the costs of college.
- **Calculate and compare how much it will cost to attend different Indiana colleges and universities.** The second part of completing the College Costs Estimator involves using a student's EFC to see estimated attendance costs, gift aid, self-help aid, net price and remaining costs at select Indiana colleges and universities. (Be aware that gift aid may not take into account the 21st Century Scholarship, which covers up to full tuition at participating public colleges and universities in Indiana, and an amount comparable to that of a public institution if students plan to attend a private or independent institution.) Your student can view these estimates for individual colleges, and he or she can also select up to three colleges and compare estimates. In addition, your students can run "what-if" scenarios to view how changes to personal information and income can affect your student's EFC and the costs of college.
- **If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, make arrangements to accompany your student to the public library or to a family member's or friend's house** to view "Estimating your College Costs" (and work through the College Costs Estimator tool).



10th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Estimate the Costs of College

Watch "Estimating Your College Costs." This video will help you learn how to estimate the out-of-pocket cost that you and your family should be prepared to contribute toward your college education. Watch the video [here](#). It takes about 20 minutes to complete. In addition to explaining how out-of-pocket costs for college are calculated, the video will show you how to use the Indiana College Costs Estimator, an online tool designed to help estimate what your own out-of-pocket college costs might be by looking at potential college expenses and potential financial aid awards.

We also recommend that you work with a parent or guardian to complete your own College Costs Estimator at IndianaCollegeCosts.org.

Did you watch the webinar about the financial aid eligibility of a typical 21st Century Scholar?

Yes

No

Did you complete a College Costs Estimator for yourself so you could see YOUR current financial aid eligibility in addition to your potential 21st Century Scholarship?

Yes

No

Did "Estimating Your College Costs" help you better understand the actual cost of attending an Indiana college, including the difference between Gift Aid and Self Help Aid?

Yes

No

Which answer best describes what the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) amount is?

The EFC is an estimate of your family's financial strength and is used to calculate the amount of need-based aid you may be eligible for. The EFC is NOT the amount of money that your family will have to pay for college.

The EFC is the amount of money I am expected to receive from scholarships and loans for that year.

The EFC is the amount of money I am expected to borrow in order to pay for college for that year.

Which answer best describes what Self-Help Aid is used for?

Self-Help Aid is the amount of money I am expected to receive from scholarships and loans for that year.

Self-Help Aid is the amount of money I would need to borrow to cover the full cost of attendance at that college for that year, but I do not necessarily need to borrow that full amount.

Self-Help Aid is the amount of money I will receive from the 21st Century Scholars program.

Which answer best describes what Gift Aid is used for?

Gift Aid is the amount of money I am expected to receive from scholarships and grants, including the 21st Century Scholarship, for that year.

Gift Aid is the amount of money that I and my family are expected to contribute to my education for that year.

Gift Aid is the amount of money I would need to borrow to cover the full cost of attendance at that college for that year, but I do not necessarily need to borrow that full amount.

If student loans are included in my financial aid estimate, I understand that: (check all that apply)

I am required to borrow the full amount.

If I have to use a student loan, the amount listed on my estimate may actually be more than I need to borrow, and I should only borrow what I actually need to cover my additional expenses.

I may not have to use any student loans at all if I find other ways to cover my expenses, such as through additional scholarships, savings, and working.

Did "Estimating Your College Costs" help you better understand the actual cost of attending an Indiana college, including the difference between Gift Aid and Self-Help Aid?

Yes

No

Did anyone (school counselor, parent, mentor, etc.) help you complete your Indiana College Costs Estimator?

Yes

No

How did this activity help you with your college planning?



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Visit a College Campus

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 11 will need to visit one or more of the state's colleges or universities. This will allow them to see, firsthand, what a college environment is like and if a particular college or university feels like a good fit for them.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Sit down and talk with your student about the colleges and universities that interest him/her and which ones you might visit together.** Make specific plans for visiting. If you are unable to accompany your student on a visit, help make arrangements to find another caring adult who can. Take advantage of holidays or time off from work to plan campus visits. If your student is unable to make it to a college campus, help him/her complete a virtual tour. A campus visit checklist can be found here: BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/.
- **Contact a college or university's admissions office to schedule a campus visit.** Individual visits can typically be arranged to fit your schedule and your student's academic goals. Most colleges and universities host weekday tours, and weekend/holiday tours may be available. If none of the tour dates offered fit your schedule, feel free to request a tour for when you could make it.
- **Ask about meeting with an admissions counselor, academic advisor and a faculty member** if not already included in a campus visit. Many campuses also offer scheduled preview days throughout the year for students and families to tour the campus, meet with staff and faculty, and learn about application and financial aid procedures.
- **If possible, plan to visit more than one college with your student.** This will provide you and your student with information needed to compare different schools and find the right fit.
- **Write down a list of questions you have about each college,** including academic, financial and social aspects. Encourage your student to do the same. For guidance, visit USANews.com/education/blogs/the-college-solution/2010/10/19/36-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-visit and/or CollegeCosts.com/docs/publications/college-tour-tips.pdf?sfvrsn=7.
- **During your visit, you and your student should be sure to:**
 - tour the campus and surrounding community;
 - meet and talk with admissions and financial aid staff, an academic advisor, a faculty member and a current student;
 - encourage your student to sit in on a class in a subject that interests him/her; and find out what support services the school has available for 21st Century Scholars and arrange to meet with support service staff.
- **If you're unable to make it on a campus physically, sit down with your student and take a virtual tour.** Most college websites offer virtual tours of their campus, and there is typically an option to chat with an admissions representative too.



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Visit a College Campus

Visiting a college gives you the opportunity to ask questions, meet current students and check out different places on campus. These visits are a great way to get a feel for different schools so you can decide which ones might be the best fit for you.

1) What college(s) did you visit?

2) Did you visit the campus in person or online via a virtual tour?

- In person
- Online or Virtual
- Both

3) Did this campus visit influence your decision about where to attend college?

- Yes, and I plan to apply to one of the colleges I visited.
- Yes, and I decided the college(s) I visit was/were not the right fit for me.
- No, visiting a college did not help me decide which college to attend.

4) What do you remember most about the college campus(es) you visited:

5) Who can verify that you completed this college visit requirement?

Name: _____

Email and/or Phone: _____



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Take a College Entrance Exam

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 11 will need to take a college entrance exam, the ACT or SAT, to be considered for admittance at one of the state's postsecondary institutions.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Encourage your student to register to take the ACT or SAT** sometime during the spring semester of their junior year. This will allow enough time for your student to retake the exam if necessary.
- **Sit down and go through the test registration process with your student.** The easiest way for students to register for the ACT or SAT is to do so online. Visit ACTstudent.org/register/ to register for the ACT or SAT.CollegeBoard.org/register/ to register for the SAT. Students can also register by mail. They should ask their school counselor for paper registration forms.
- **Together with your student, search for a testing center in your area.** Visit ACTstudent.org for a list of ACT test centers and CollegeBoard.org for a list of SAT test centers near you. The earlier you register, the more testing center options you will have to select from.
- **Help your student make transportation arrangements for the day of the test.** If you will not be able to provide transportation, brainstorm alternative transportation—perhaps another family member, friend or mentor.
- **If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, encourage your student to use a school or friend's computer, or a nearby public library to register for the ACT or SAT** and access important information about deadlines, testing sites and test preparation.
- **Call your student's school counselor—or encourage your student to ask their counselor—to check eligibility for and to request a fee waiver.** As a 21st Century Scholar, your student should be eligible to have the \$50 test registration fee waived. Students cannot apply directly for fee waivers on their own; a school counselor must request fee waivers for them.
- **Help your student access test prep resources and prepare for the exam.** Students will perform better on college entrance exams if they spend time becoming familiar with the test format and types of questions and running through practice questions. Test prep materials and courses can be costly, but there are plenty of free and low-cost options out there. Check out the public library or used bookstores for practice books. Students should also ask their school counselor if their school provides any test prep resources or if they know of any in the community. [Regional Outreach Coordinators](#) may also know about free or low-cost test prep opportunities for Scholars.
- **Check out ACTstudent.org and CollegeBoard.org** for free practice tests, questions-of-the-day, test day tips and other resources to help you prepare for the tests and improve your skills.



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Take a College Entrance Exam

Which college entrance exam did you take? (Select one)

- SAT
- ACT
- Both SAT and ACT

Did you research admissions requirements for the college(s) that you were interested in before choosing which exam to take?

- Yes
- No

How did you prepare for the exam prior to taking it? (Check all that apply)

- Test-prep course
- Practice exams
- Test prep study guide or book
- Other:

Do you plan on retaking the exam to improve your score?

- Yes
- No

Was the exam easier or harder than you expected?

- Easier than I expected
- Harder than I expected
- It was about what I expected



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Search for Scholarships

Scholars in Grade 11 should begin researching scholarship opportunities available to them, and, if they qualify for scholarships that accept applications from students before their senior year, apply as well.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Encourage your student to begin searching for scholarships early on in his or her junior year** in order to be prepared to apply as a senior. Your student may be able to apply to some scholarships during his/her junior year. [Click here](#) for a Scholarship Search tool.
- **Encourage your student to search for local scholarships before searching for national scholarships.** Since local scholarships typically draw from a much smaller applicant pool—limited to your community and surrounding area—students' chances of receiving these awards are greater than national scholarships.
- **Help your student brainstorm a list of potential sources for local scholarships in your community,** such as: community and nonprofit organizations; civic groups; social, professional, fraternal and extracurricular organizations; faith-based organizations; local businesses; hospitals and other health service providers. Encourage your student to call, check websites, and even visit these organizations in person to inquire about scholarship opportunities.
- **Ask your employer(s) if they sponsor any scholarships.** Ask other family members to inquire about scholarships with their employers as well. If your student works, his/her employer may offer scholarships as well.
- **Sit down with your student and help him/her conduct a scholarship search online, starting with local scholarships.** Be sure your student writes down important information such as the scholarship name, source, website, requirements and application deadline. If your family does not have a computer with Internet access at home, help your student find one he or she can use, whether it is at school, a public library, your place of employment, or a friend or family member's house.
- **Know that you and your student should never have to pay for a scholarship search service.** Many companies charge fees for their scholarship searches. While they may be reputable companies, there are plenty of great scholarship search services that your student can access for free. Many websites offer scholarship searches based on characteristics you provide.
 - [FastWeb.com](#): Receive free email alerts about scholarships that fit your characteristics.
 - [Scholarships.com](#): Browse hundreds of scholarships.
 - [StudentAid.ed.gov](#): Explore the federal government's scholarship search site.
 - [State Student Financial Aid](#): Find scholarships and grants from the state of Indiana, including 21st Century Scholars, Frank O'Bannon, and the Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship.
- **Besides online scholarship searches, encourage students to talk to their school counselor and contact potential future colleges and universities** about scholarship opportunities.
- **Remind students often to pay attention to scholarship application deadlines** so that they leave ample time to complete requirements and submit applications. Consider posting a calendar in your home where application deadlines can be visible to you and your student.



11th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Search for Scholarships

How did you search for scholarships? (Check all that apply)

- Websites (IndianaCollegeCosts.org, Fastweb.com, etc.)
- Colleges or universities that you would consider attending
- Your high school counseling/guidance office
- Local foundations, religious or community organizations, businesses or civic groups
- Professional organizations related to your career interest(s)

Have you applied to any of the scholarships you found during your search?

- Yes
- No

On which of the following qualities were your scholarship searches based? (Check all that apply)

- Academic performance
- Athletic achievements
- Extra-curricular or service activities
- Other:

What costs can the scholarships you applied for cover that are not covered by your 21st Century Scholarship?

- Books
- Housing
- Transportation
- All of the above



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Submit your College Application

For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 12 will need to complete their college applications. By now, students have probably narrowed their search, so they will need to acquire the application(s) and make sure they meet the deadline(s).

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Encourage your student to schedule a meeting with his/her school counselor at the very beginning of his/her senior year, and again during the fall and spring—and consider attending these meeting yourself.** Your student's counselor can help your student narrow his/her college choices and help with every step of the college application process. Encourage your student to talk to his/her counselor at any point with questions about requirements, deadlines, etc.
- **Familiarize yourself with the application requirements and important deadlines for the college(s) your student plans on applying to.** Knowing this information will enable you to better help and support your student in the application process—and in meeting those important deadlines! Make important deadlines visible—post them on a wall calendar in your family's home. Set reminders on your cell phone, too, and encourage your student to do the same.
- **Sit down with your student and review each application together.** Discuss the requirements and the different steps your student will need to take to meet each one or obtain necessary documents. Help your student get—and stay—organized by making a folder for each college and keeping a list of application requirements, a timeline of deadlines and all necessary documents. Keep in mind that most college applications require students to submit:
 - Basic personal information
 - Official transcript
 - Letter(s) of recommendation
 - Standardized test scores, such as ACT and/or SAT
 - Essay or other piece of writing
- **Make sure your student enquires about application fee waivers at each school he/she applies to.** Many Indiana colleges and universities offer fee waivers for 21st Century Scholars. Students can check colleges' admissions web pages or call admissions offices to see if they offer fee waivers.
- **Review each of your student's applications before he/she submits them.** Check to make sure your student has completed every section and included all necessary documents. Encourage your student to ask another caring adult, such as a teacher, mentor or youth organization leader to review and carefully proofread each application as well. Clean, complete and error-free application materials are a must to increase the odds of being accepted.
- **Encourage your student to keep his/her grades up and continue to take challenging courses during senior year.** Even after students submit applications—and even if they are accepted—colleges look at students' grades through graduation. Taking rigorous courses (especially advanced math) throughout senior year is important, too, so that students are better prepared for college academics.
- **Find application tips at LearnMoreIndiana.org/applying-for-college.**



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Submit your College Application

Please list the eligible Indiana colleges to which you applied. Even if you applied to more than 5 colleges, please list just your top 5 colleges.

Which of these colleges are you most likely to attend?

This college is a:

- Two-Year Public
- Two-Year Private
- Four-Year public
- Four-Year private

Will your 21st Century Scholarship cover full tuition and mandatory fees at the college you plan to attend?

- Yes
- No

What expenses will my 21st Century Scholarship NOT cover at this college?

- Housing
- Spending money
- Meals
- Books
- Travel
- Other living expenses
- All of the above



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Watch “College Success 101”

Scholars in Grade 12 should begin preparing for the transition from high school to college, learning about the challenges and changes college will present and understanding what it will take to be successful.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Watch “College Success 101” with your student.** Viewing the module together may spark important conversations about heading to college and the many challenges and changes your student will confront. Together, you and your student can work through any questions or concerns that you have about this transition. To access “College Success 101,” go to: [Youtube.com/watch?v=az5IKd9L0tl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=az5IKd9L0tl).
- **If your family does not have a computer with Internet access at home, help your student find one he or she can use** to watch “College Success 101,” whether it is at school, a public library, your place of employment, or a friend or family member’s house.
- **Together, brainstorm questions that you and your student have about beginning college,** whether about academics, finances or student life. Seek answers to your questions together. For unanswered questions, encourage your student to contact staff at the college he/she plans to attend or talk to his/her school counselor and teachers. Don’t hesitate to contact your [Regional Outreach Coordinator](#) with questions, too.
- **Read the [College Success Guide](#) for 21st Century Scholars with your student and talk about each section.** The guide provides a more in-depth look at the challenges and changes students will encounter in college and offers advice as students face these new experiences. Using both the Guide and the Facilitator’s Manual, discuss with your student:
 - Long-term career goals;
 - Academic plan for college;
 - Plan for studying in college and, if needed, seeking academic support;
 - Ways to get involved in campus life;
 - Part-time, on-campus work options;
 - Housing options and pros/cons of each;
 - Estimated expenses and sources of income—and a budget;
 - Ways he/she can take care of himself/herself and stay safe.
- **Talk to your student about any questions, concerns or anxieties he/she—and you—have about making the transition to college.** Your child is about to begin a new phase of life that will be different (possibly much different) from what he/she knows—and things will be changing for you too. It is entirely normal for both of you to have concerns or feel uneasy. Try to seek answers to your questions together, and discuss next steps your student will need to take this spring and summer to prepare for college. You could also talk to your child’s school counselor together to get additional help or advice.



- **Encourage your student to inquire about resources and initiatives to support first-year students—and 21st Century Scholars in particular—offered by the college or university your student plans to attend.** These initiatives may range from mentoring and academic support programs to first-year experience initiatives such as summer-bridge, “welcome week” and orientation programming, first-year seminar and career exploration courses, and learning communities. Many colleges in Indiana offer programs or advising specifically for Scholars to support them all the way through college to degree completion. Encourage your student to call the 21st Century Scholars contact person at the college he/she will be attending to learn more. If your student does not yet know where he/she will be attending college, encourage him/her to investigate resources and support at all potential colleges. For a complete list of Scholar incentives, visit [here](#) for public colleges and [here](#) for private colleges.
- **Encourage your student to schedule an appointment during the spring or summer before college to meet with a college academic advisor.** Together with an advisor, your student should discuss his/her education and career goals and develop an academic plan as well as a course schedule for the fall.
- **Keep a calendar in a visible place in your family’s home, and mark important dates and deadlines—**dates, such as registration and the first day of fall semester classes; and deadlines, such as for financial aid paperwork or summer bridge registration.
- **Help your student estimate his/her expenses and sources of income for the first year of college, and from there, help your student create a realistic budget.** Expenses may include: tuition (if not fully covered by 21st Century Scholarship), room/housing, food, books, school supplies, cell phone, insurance, clothes, transportation and other personal expenses. Sources of income may include: financial aid paid directly to the student (scholarships, grants, or loans other than 21st Century Scholarship), work wages, savings, family contributions and other income.



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: Watch “College Success 101”

Students are expected to spend at least two (2) hours outside of the classroom preparing for each hour they spend in class.

- True
- False

According to the presentation, which of the following skills are important to being successful as a student in college? (Check all that apply)

- Being assertive
- Time management
- Understanding how to pay for college
- Managing relationships

What steps must a 21st Century Scholar take to remain eligible for the 21st Century Scholarship? (Check all that apply)

- Meet the college’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements
- Take and complete at least 30 credit hours each academic year
- File the FAFSA on time by the state deadline of March 10th and correct any issues or errors by May 15th
- Continue to honor the 21st Century Scholars Pledge

Having a job outside of college can actually help a student succeed financially and academically.

- True, although it’s recommended that students work no more than 10-15 hours per week
- False

Another key to college success is adjusting to college life. This can be done by: (Check all that apply)

- Participating in orientation activities
- Participating in college activities and functions
- Getting involved with roommates and dorm activities
- Volunteering to help with college events
- Trying not to go home every weekend



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

File your FAFSA

Scholars in Grade 12 must file a Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10th and make any corrections by May 15th in order to be eligible to receive their 21st Century Scholarship and any other state, federal or college aid.

How can you help your Scholar complete this activity?

- **Help your student gather important information needed to complete the FAFSA.** Students will need to have the following information on hand to complete the FAFSA:
 - Student's social security and driver's license numbers
 - Parents' and student's federal income tax returns (1040EZ, 1040A, or 1040) and/or W-2s from two years ago. (If filing a 2017-2018 FAFSA, use 2015 tax information.)
 - Parents' and student's bank statements; business and investment mortgage information; business and farm records; stock, bond and other investment records; any other untaxed income information, including but not limited to payments to tax-deferred pensions and savings plans, child support, tax exempt interest income, untaxed portions of IRA distributions and/or pensions, veteran's benefits, disability payments, worker's compensation
 - Alien registration numbers or permanent residence cards, if student or parents are not U.S. citizens
 - Student's academic information, including GPA, test scores and diploma type
 - Student and parent FSA IDs, if student plans to complete and submit the FAFSA online (see below for instructions to get your FSA ID).
- **Attend a College Goal Sunday event with your student.** Volunteers will be on hand at this event to help Indiana students and their families complete the FAFSA. Approximately 40 sites statewide will offer free, professional assistance in completing and filing the FAFSA. To find a location near you, check with your student's school counselor or visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.
- **Seek out other local FAFSA events in your community.** View this statewide calendar to find FAFSA events happening near you: Scholars.IN.gov/events. Encourage your student to check with his/her school counselor and the [Regional Outreach Coordinator](#) for information about FAFSA events.
- **Together with your student, use the FAFSA on the Web worksheet to get organized. Then, complete and file the FAFSA together online.** The FAFSA on the Web worksheet, available at FAFSA.ed.gov, is a printable worksheet that will help you and your student gather all necessary information and data to complete the FAFSA. It contains many of the core questions and instructions on how to answer them. While your student can complete a paper version of the FAFSA, completing the FAFSA online has benefits such as built-in edits to help prevent certain errors and detailed instructions and help for common questions. It is also faster and will make it easier for you and your student to file in the future. If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, you can still plan to file online using a computer at school, a public library, or a relative or friend's house. If you don't have a computer with Internet access at home (and even if you do), plan on attending a College Goal Sunday or other local FAFSA event with your student, where your student will be able to complete and file the FAFSA online—and get plenty of assistance in doing so.



- **It may be helpful to have a general overview of the steps involved in filing the FAFSA.** Note that the FAFSA is estimated to take approximately 30 minutes. Having the information and documents described above will help make the process as efficient as possible. To complete the FAFSA:
 - **Have your FSA ID ready.** The FSA ID is your electronic passport to federal student aid online. To learn more and set-up your FSA ID, visit [FSAID.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).
 - **Go to FAFSA.gov and “Start a New FAFSA.”** Your student will need to login using name, Social Security Number and date of birth. Then your student should create a password, which will enable him/her to save the FAFSA and return to it later.
 - **Enter student demographic information.** Your student will need to provide basic demographic information as well as information about his/her high school, intended college degree and information to determine aid eligibility.
 - **Select schools.** Your student will need to select the colleges and universities he/she would like to attend.
 - **Determine dependency status.** Your student will answer a series of questions to determine whether he/she is considered dependent or independent.
 - **Enter parent demographic information.** Your student will need to provide parental data. If a student’s parents are married or remarried, he/she will need to provide information about both parents, or parent and stepparent. If a student’s parents are divorced or separated, he/she will need to provide information about the parent with whom he/she lived most during the last 12 months.
 - **Enter financial information—parent and student.** Your student will need to use tax returns to complete these sections. For the 2017-2018 FAFSA, students (and parents) will report their 2015 income and tax information. In addition to tax information, your student will need to provide information about parent and student assets, net worth of investments, and net worth of parents’ business or investment farms, if applicable.
 - **Sign and submit.** Your student and at least one parent will need to sign the application. The easiest way to do this is to sign electronically with U.S. Department of Education FSA IDs. (See above for instructions on obtaining an FSA ID.) Both you and your student will need to obtain an FSA ID.
- **Within a few weeks of submitting the FAFSA, your student will receive an email or paper Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education.** The SAR summarizes the information entered on the FAFSA and contains your family’s EFC, or Expected Family Contribution—the amount the government reasonably expects your family to contribute to your student’s college costs. Note: this does not mean this is the amount you will pay. College financial aid offices will review your student’s SAR and determine his/her eligibility for different types of aid. Be sure that your student takes time to review the SAR for errors, and follow directions for making and submitting corrections.
- **The colleges your student selected on the FAFSA will receive his/her information, review it, and use it to determine your student’s eligibility for different types of aid.** These colleges then send an award letter displaying your student’s financial aid package. Feel free to contact a school’s financial aid office if you have questions about your student’s award letter. Your student should check with individual schools to see if there are additional requirements for applying for financial aid from that particular institution. Award packages vary from college to college, so look them over carefully.



12th GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Worksheet: File your FAFSA

What does filing the FAFSA accomplish (check all that apply):

- Required to receive the 21st Century Scholarship
- Required to receive Federal Aid
- Required to receive aid offered by the college I attend

Where did you file the FAFSA?

- At a school event
- At a College Goal Sunday location
- At home
- Other

Did you check eStudent to see if your FAFSA requires edits/corrections?

- Yes
- No

What is the deadline for making edits/corrections to your FAFSA?

- March 10
- May 15
- June 30

You must file your FAFSA by March 10 as:

- A high school senior
- A high school senior and college freshman
- A high school senior and every year I am in college

