

I'm a  
SCHOLAR  
SUCCEEDED

21st Century Scholars:

# School Partner

Training Manual

COLLEGE PLANNING

21<sup>st</sup> Century  
**SCHOLARS**  
INDIANA

CAREER SUCCESS

## Dear School Partners,

We know you want the best for your students, and that you're working hard every day. At the beginning of each year, sit down with Scholars at your school and review the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Scholars at your school complete each SSP requirement. There are also worksheets included so you and your Scholars will know what questions will be asked in ScholarTrack. Remember, Scholars must track their SSP completion via ScholarTrack. For information on creating an account, see the next page.

If you need any assistance or would like to set up a presentation or event for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars at your school, please contact your Regional Outreach Coordinator [here](#). Students can contact the Student Support Center at 1-888-528-4719 or [Scholars@che.IN.gov](mailto:Scholars@che.IN.gov).

Thank you for supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars at your school.

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# SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

## Create a ScholarTrack Account

**GET STARTED:** Go to [Scholars.IN.gov/scholartrack](http://Scholars.IN.gov/scholartrack) to access the sign-in page.

- Click **GREEN TAB** for NEW STUDENT ACCOUNT.
- Enter **Scholar ID number & Date of Birth** – Scholar ID is printed on Scholar’s index card/slip of paper.
  - 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).
- Click **PROCEED**.
- 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).
- Click **NEXT PAGE** and verify personal information.
- 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](mailto: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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



# 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

*NOTE: According to Indiana law, beginning in grade 9, school counselors are required to assist students in further developing their Graduation Plan in consultation with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).*

- **In addition to meeting with students and their parents annually about the Graduation Plan, school counselors should check in with 9<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars periodically throughout the year** to see if they need additional help further developing their Graduation Plans.
- **Make school computer labs and school library computers available to students before and after school** to facilitate student online access to Graduation Plans through *Indiana Career Explorer*. Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **Promote the Graduation Plan at your school year-round and especially as part of the College GO! Campaign**, Learn More Indiana's fall campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college and career success. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/college](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/college) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign.
- **Promote Indiana's Graduation Plan amongst all students and their parents.** Spread awareness about the importance of this document such that "Graduation Plan" becomes a familiar term to all students, parents and staff members and an integral part of your school's college-ready culture.
- **Lead a Graduation Plan tutorial for 9<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars as well as other interested students.** Invite parents to participate too. Guide students (and their parents) through the process of developing each component of their Graduation Plans, accessing them online through *Indiana Career Explorer* and getting any questions answered.



# 9<sup>th</sup> 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.*



# 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Help Scholars connect to extracurricular and service activities both in and out of school.** Based on students' interests, counselors and teachers can make suggestions for activities that might be a good fit.
- **Maintain a list of school-based extracurricular activities, as well as established service activities in the community** and share these lists with Scholars and their families.
- **School counselors should check in with 9<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars periodically throughout the year to make sure they participate in an extracurricular or service activity.** If students are struggling to choose an activity, help guide them through the process of finding an activity. If students are facing barriers, such as lack of transportation, that keep them from taking part, help them brainstorm solutions or choose an alternative activity.
- **Reach out to local organizations and businesses in the community to see what volunteer positions might be available for Scholars and other high school students.** Promote available opportunities among Scholars and their families, as well as other students.
- **Promote the importance of involvement in extracurricular and service activities amongst all students and their parents.** Emphasize involvement as an important step in preparing for college and being successful in high school as well as college.



# 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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.

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**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.”

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**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.

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

Friend, school counselor, parent, mentor, etc.

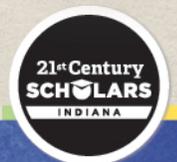
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**7. How did this activity help your personal growth or career exploration?**

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## 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Make computer labs and/or school library computers available to Scholars before and after school** so that they can watch “Paying for College 101.” Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **Organize a session in one of the school’s computer labs where Scholars can watch “Paying for College 101” individually or as a group.** Allow time for students to complete their responses to questions about the module. Afterwards, facilitate a discussion about information presented in the module, and give students an opportunity to ask questions about paying for college. “Paying for College 101” can be found here: [youtube.com/watch?v=N\\_5T668cvdU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_5T668cvdU).
- **School counselors should check in with Scholars periodically throughout the year**, to see if they have completed the module, and if they have not, whether they need help doing so.
- **Promote “Paying for College 101” for Scholars as part of Learn More Indiana’s Cash for College campaign** to equip students and families with practical steps needed to save for college, navigate the financial aid process and complete college with minimal debt. Encourage Scholars at your school to complete the module as a Cash for College activity. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign at your school.
- **As part of Cash for College activities, encourage teachers to facilitate discussion and activities in their classrooms related to paying for college.** For example, students might research what it costs to attend different colleges and universities in Indiana and present their findings, or work in teams to create a budget.
- **If your school hosts a FAFSA night or financial aid information session, include sessions for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families too.** Inform students and families about steps they can take at each grade level to help prepare to pay for college.
- **Encourage Scholars to consider working toward a Core 40 Diploma with Academic or Technical Honors.** An honors diploma can increase students’ chances of earning scholarships and financial aid from colleges as well as the state of Indiana.



# 9<sup>th</sup> 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?

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# 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Sign your school up for *Indiana Career Explorer* ([IndianaCareerExplorer.com](http://IndianaCareerExplorer.com))**, which provides educators with resources to monitor students' progress, make data-driven decisions and support students in the career planning process.
- **School counselors should check in with 10<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars during annual meetings, and periodically throughout the year**, to see if they need any help accessing *Indiana Career Explorer* and/or taking a career interest assessment.
- **Promote *Indiana Career Explorer* and its tools and resources amongst all students and their parents** on your school's website, in the school counseling office, lunchroom and hallways.
- **Host a career fair at your school.** Invite individuals from a wide variety of careers in your community to talk to students, answer questions and provide information about their careers and education. Following the career fair, encourage students to research careers of interest and pursue job shadowing and internship opportunities related to career interests.
- **Promote career interest assessments as part of the Career Ready campaign**, Learn More Indiana's spring campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/career](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/career) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign at your school.
- **Make school computer labs and school library computers available to students before and after school** to facilitate student access to *Indiana Career Explorer* and online career interest assessments. Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **Lead an *Indiana Career Explorer* tutorial for Scholars and other interested students.** Guide students through the process of setting up *Indiana Career Explorer* accounts, taking a career interest assessment and using the results to explore careers.



# 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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



# 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

## Get Workplace Experience

*For this requirement, Scholars in Grade 10 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 specific careers that interest them. Students can also interview a professional in a field of interest.*

### How can you help Scholars complete this activity?

- **Help Scholars connect to job shadowing, internship and/or part-time job opportunities.** Based on students' career interests, counselors and teachers can make suggestions for types of workplaces students could contact. Counselors may help arrange these with contacts in the community.
- **Build and maintain a list of businesses and organizations in the community that have offered job shadowing, internship programs and/or part-time employment to students.** Organize this list by career fields and share it with Scholars and their families as well as other students.
- **Reach out to local organizations and businesses in the community to see if they would be willing to provide internships or job shadowing opportunities—and even part-time work—for local students.** Such conversations can take place formally and informally when you are out in the community. Promote available opportunities among Scholars and their families as well as other students.
- **Promote the importance of job shadowing and internships to all students and their families.** Emphasize workplace experience as an important step in preparing for college and future careers.
- **Promote job shadowing and internships as part of Career Ready,** Learn More Indiana's spring campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success. Click [here](#) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign.
- **Host a career day or career fair at your school.** Invite individuals from a wide variety of careers to answer questions and provide information about their careers and education. Encourage presenters to promote job shadowing and internship opportunities their companies offer to high schoolers. Afterwards, encourage students to research careers of interest and pursue opportunities.
- **Encourage students to pursue internships or part-time jobs in career fields that interest them during the summer following 10<sup>th</sup> grade.** School counselors might meet with Scholars during the spring semester to see if they need assistance seeking an internship or part-time job for the summer.
- **School counselors should check in with 10<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars periodically throughout the year to make sure they get workplace experience.** If students are struggling to find a job shadowing opportunity or internship, help guide them through the process and connect them to resources. If students are interested in part-time employment, discuss the responsibilities of juggling schoolwork and a job, and help students explore opportunities, especially those linked to their career interests.
- **If a group of Scholars (and other students) have similar career interests, arrange a group job shadowing field trip.** Contact local businesses or organizations in students' career field of interest and see about setting up a day for students to spend job shadowing.
- **Promote IndianaINTERN.net on your school's website.** This free tool connects high school and college students with internships.
- **Host a résumé-writing and/or job interview preparation workshop for Scholars as well as other students.** Guide students through creating a résumé and the interview process.



# 10<sup>th</sup> 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?

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2. Describe the workplace experience you participated in.

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

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4. When did you participate in this workplace experience?

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

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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.).

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

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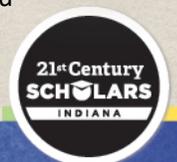
# 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

## 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Encourage not only Scholars but all 10<sup>th</sup> graders to view “Estimating your College Costs”**—and encourage students to revisit the video as 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the event their interests or options have changed.
- **Organize a session in one of the school’s computer labs where Scholars (and other interested students) can work through the Indiana College Costs Estimator.** Invite parents to attend too. Make sure students bring their own and their parents’ tax information with them to the session, since they will need it to complete the Estimator. A faculty or staff member might lead a tutorial on the College Costs Estimator, helping guide students (and parents) through each section and their results. You can find “Estimating your College Costs” here: [youtube.com/watch?v=1xuYMfQTXw8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=1xuYMfQTXw8).
- **Promote [IndianaCollegeCosts.org](https://IndianaCollegeCosts.org) and the College Costs Estimator among students and families at your school.** Spread awareness about these valuable resources on your school’s website, in classrooms, hallways and the school office—and in conversations with students and families.
- **If your school hosts a FAFSA night or financial aid information session, include College Costs Estimator tutorial sessions in the school’s computer lab for students and families.** Discuss the value and purpose of this tool, and give students and families the opportunity to create an account with [IndianaCollegeCosts.org](https://IndianaCollegeCosts.org), work through the Estimator, understand their results, and learn about next steps they can take to prepare to pay for college.
- **Make computer labs and school library computers available to Scholars before and after school** so that they can view the video and complete the Estimator. Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **School counselors should check in with Scholars during annual meetings, and periodically throughout the year,** to see if they have viewed “Estimating your College Costs.” If students completed the College Costs Estimator, they might need assistance understanding their results.
- **Promote [IndianaCollegeCosts.org](https://IndianaCollegeCosts.org) and the College Costs Estimator tool as part of College GO! and Cash for College.** Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing Learn More Indiana’s campaigns to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success.
- **Contact the National Center for College Costs ([CollegeCosts.com](https://CollegeCosts.com)) to learn more about College Costs Estimator programs, as well as workshops, presentations and activities that NCCC can provide to your school and community** to address critical postsecondary preparation needs. College preparatory programming includes presentations and workshops on the following topics: Connecting Classroom and Workplace, Mock Admissions Case Studies, Finding the Right College Fit, Executing an Effective Essay, College Visit Bus Trips, Interview Preparation/Mock Interviews, FAFSA Filing Days and College Survival 101.



# 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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?**

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# 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Encourage students to visit at least one college campus.** Promote this message early and often with students, especially during students' junior year. A possible resource for this requirement is [BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist](http://BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist).
- **School counselors should check in with Scholars during annual meetings, and periodically throughout the year,** to see if they need any help arranging a college campus visit.
- **Host a college fair at your school.** Invite representatives from several colleges and universities to talk to students, answer questions, provide information about their schools and share steps students should take to plan a campus visit. Invite graduates of your high school who are current college students or recent college graduates—including 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars—to come and speak to Scholars and other students about different aspects—academic, financial and social—of life at their college. Encourage students to follow up and plan campus visits to those colleges and universities that most interest them.
- **Promote college campus visits as part of the College GO! Campaign,** Learn More Indiana's fall campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/college](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/college) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign at your school.
- **Plan a field trip for Scholars at your school—or for all students—to a college near you.** Contact the college or university to arrange a group visit. Many colleges and universities provide campus tours and other presentations/resources for school groups.
- **Make computer labs and school library computers available to Scholars before and after school** so that they can visit colleges virtually. Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.



# 11<sup>th</sup> 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?**

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**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:**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and/or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Host information sessions about college entrance exams for students and their parents.** Reach out specifically to students whose parents have little to no college experience and help them understand the importance of these tests.
- **Check in with 11<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars periodically throughout the year to make sure they have the information they need to register for a college entrance exam**—and make sure they have registered to take the ACT or SAT during the spring of their junior year.
- **School counselors should request ACT and SAT fee waivers** for Scholars and other students who are eligible.
- **Make school computer labs available to students before and after school** to facilitate ACT and SAT registration and practice activities—and make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **Help connect Scholars to school- and community-based ACT/SAT preparation resources, including test prep courses, tutors and materials.** Compile a listing of test prep resources—especially those that are free or low-cost—offered online and in the community and share this list with Scholars.
- **Post links to free, reputable online ACT and SAT prep sites and activities** on the school's website. Encourage teachers to copy these links on their class websites.
- **Encourage teachers to post ACT and/or SAT questions-of-the-day in their classrooms** and to include other ACT/SAT test prep activities in their curriculum.
- **Sponsor school-based ACT and SAT preparation courses for Scholars and other students.** Reach out to community partners who might be interested in helping coordinate and fund courses.
- **Look into the possibility of district-provided transportation for Scholars and other students who might need it, to ACT/SAT testing sites** on one or more given testing days. Seek support from counselors at other district high schools if needed.
- **Contact the local College Board representative in your region** to see what outreach services and resources can be provided to Scholars and other students in your community.



# 11<sup>th</sup> 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)**

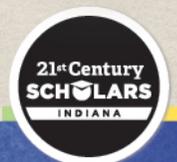
- Test-prep course
- Practice exams
- Test prep study guide or book
- Other:

**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



# 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Make computer labs and school library computers available to students before and after school** to facilitate online scholarship searching—and make sure Scholars are aware of open lab hours.
- **Lead a scholarship search tutorial for Scholars and other interested students.** Invite parents to attend too. Guide students through the process of conducting a scholarship search, providing them with free scholarship search websites and tips for researching and applying to scholarships.
- **Encourage students to conduct scholarship searches early in their junior year.** Promote this message early and often with students throughout their junior and senior years.
- **School counselors should check in with Scholars during annual meetings, and periodically throughout the year,** to see if they need any help searching for scholarships.
- **Promote scholarship searching as part of the [Cash for College Campaign](#),** Learn More Indiana's campaign to equip students and families with practical steps needed to save for college, navigate the financial aid process and complete college with minimal debt.
- **Keep an up-to-date listing of scholarships and scholarship information posted in a highly visible place,** including all of those scholarships that previous years' seniors have been awarded.
- **Compile the total amount of scholarships earned from the previous year's seniors.** Challenge students to surpass this amount.
- **Place special emphasis on local scholarship sources.** Keep a special binder or electronic file listing of local scholarships and current contact information for the person at each organization who coordinates scholarships. Even better: organize fairs or other events and invite local scholarship coordinators to present the opportunities for funding they provide.
- **Promote free scholarship search websites, such as the ones listed below.** Reinforce the message to both students and parents that they should **never** pay for scholarship search services.
  - [IndianaCollegeCosts.org](http://IndianaCollegeCosts.org) (to search for local scholarships)
  - [FastWeb.com](http://FastWeb.com)
  - [Scholarships.com](http://Scholarships.com)
  - [StudentAid.ed.gov](http://StudentAid.ed.gov)
  - [College Board's Scholarship Search](#)
  - [ScholarshipExperts.com](http://ScholarshipExperts.com)
- **Encourage English and composition teachers to offer scholarship essay writing tips, practice opportunities and editing assistance** for students, whether as mini-lessons in class, in after school tutorials, or as part of the curriculum during the Cash for College Campaign.
- **Promote *Next Indiana*, Learn More Indiana's student success publication, among your school's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families.** Make copies of *Next Indiana* available, include a link on your school's website and encourage students and families to read it. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials) or [IndNext.com](http://IndNext.com) to download a PDF.



# 11<sup>th</sup> 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



# 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Encourage all students to start their college application(s) early in the fall of their senior year** and to aim to complete applications by Thanksgiving. Promote this message repeatedly to seniors throughout the fall.
- **School counselors should meet with Scholars at the beginning of their senior year, and again during the fall and spring** to see which schools they plan on applying to (and to make sure the schools are a good fit), where they are in the application process, if they are on track to meet deadlines and if they need any assistance. Help Scholars create a checklist of application requirements and a timeline that includes important deadlines.
- **Encourage seniors to complete college applications during the College GO! Campaign**, Learn More Indiana's fall campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/college](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/college) for more information about activities, goals and resources for implementing this campaign at your school.
- **Make school computer labs and school library computers available to students before and after school** to facilitate college application work by seniors. Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours.
- **Host college application work sessions at various points throughout the fall for Scholars and other students.** These can be held during lunch, before school, after school or in the evenings. Encourage students to bring all of their application materials and questions. Invite teachers to attend to provide assistance for students through each step of the process.
- **Encourage teachers to reach out to Scholars in their classes** to see if they need letters of recommendation or assistance with essays or any other part of their college application(s).
- **Encourage English teachers to include college application essay-writing tips and practice in their curriculum—especially during the College GO! Campaign.** Review the writing process with students and encourage them to use it when writing application essays.



# 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Which of these colleges are you most likely to attend?

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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



# 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Scholars complete this activity?

- **Make computer labs and school library computers available to Scholars before and after school** so that they can watch “College Success 101.” Make sure Scholars are aware of open computer lab hours. To access, visit [YouTube.com/watch?v=az5IKd9L0tI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=az5IKd9L0tI).
- **Organize a session where Scholars can watch “College Success 101.”** Allow time for students to complete their responses to questions about the module. Afterwards, facilitate a discussion about information presented in the module, and give students an opportunity to ask any questions they have about college.
- **School counselors should check in with 12<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars periodically throughout the year**, to see if they have watched “College Success 101,” and if they have not, whether they need help doing so.
- **School counselors might also meet with 12<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars individually early in the spring to discuss next steps students should take to prepare for their college transition.** Steps include inquiring at the college—or potential colleges—they plan to attend about resources and support for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars, as well as about first-year experience initiatives and how to get involved in these. Counselors should encourage students to make an appointment with an academic advisor at their college. Counselors can also use this as an opportunity to talk to Scholars about finalizing their college plans and help address any questions or concerns students have.
- **Meet with your school’s 12<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars as a group (or several small groups) and facilitate a discussion about transitioning to college.** Use [the College Success Guide](#) for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars and the corresponding Facilitator’s Manual to plan discussion topics and activities.
- **Include college transition activities for seniors as part of the College GO! Campaign**, Learn More Indiana’s fall campaign to help Hoosiers of all ages plan for college completion and career success. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/college](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/college) for more information about activities, goals, and resources for implementing this campaign.
- **Promote *Next Indiana*, Learn More Indiana’s student success publication, among your school’s 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families.** Make copies of *Next Indiana* available at your school, include a link to this publication on your school’s website, and encourage students and families to read it and complete the activities. Visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials) or [IndNext.com](http://IndNext.com) to download a PDF.



# 12<sup>th</sup> 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



# 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

## File your FAFSA

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

### How can you help Scholars complete this activity?

- **Promote College Goal Sunday, FAFSA Friday, and FAFSA filing for all seniors as part of Learn More Indiana's [Cash for College](#) campaign** to equip students and families with practical steps needed to save for college, navigate the financial aid process, and complete college with minimal debt.
- **Emphasize the importance of filing a FAFSA, not just to seniors but to all students.** Make students—as freshmen, sophomores, and juniors—aware of this critical piece of the financial aid process so they will be already familiar with the FAFSA, and its importance, as seniors.
- **School counselors should check in with Scholars (and their parents) at various points from October through March to find out if they have filed a FAFSA or whether they need assistance in doing so.** Remind seniors frequently throughout the fall and spring about FAFSA deadlines. Provide students with FAFSA event details and other resources to help them complete and file the FAFSA.
- **Through newsletters, email notices, or other communications, encourage students to file their FAFSA as early as possible.** In the past, students had to wait until January 1, but now they will be able to submit their 2017-2018 FAFSA starting on October 1, 2016. Students and parents will report their 2015 income and tax information. This will make it easier because most people will have their 2015 taxes filed, and they will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
- **Encourage all students and families to file the FAFSA online**—and make school computer labs available to students before and after school to facilitate online FAFSA completion.
- **Provide FAFSA on the Web worksheets for students**—particularly Scholars—and their families. Host a tutorial before or after school or during lunch in which you review the worksheet with students and give them a chance to ask about core FAFSA questions and information they will need.
- **Encourage all students—particularly Scholars—and their families to attend College Goal Sunday in February.** 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. Make sure students are aware of important details about this event, such as the time, nearest location, and what materials and information they need to bring.
- **Organize or sponsor a FAFSA event or financial aid night at your school,** to provide assistance to seniors and their families in learning about and filing their FAFSAs.
- **Encourage faculty and staff to volunteer at a local [College Goal Sunday](#) event.** In addition to qualified financial aid administrators, volunteers are always needed to serve as greeters, staff registration, supervise seating, answer questions, organize the events and assist administrators.
- **Offer incentives for seniors—especially Scholars—to attend College Goal Sunday and/or participate in other Cash for College events.** Create a contest—challenge all seniors and their families to attend College Goal Sunday or participate in the FAFSA day at your school.



# 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

INDIANA'S 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SCHOLARS

## 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

