



CONGRATS
21ST CENTURY
SCHOLAR

A program of the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Next Level Jobs



Advanced Manufacturing



Building & Construction



IT & Business Services



Health & Life Sciences



Transportation & Logistics

ATTENTION Scholar Parents:

YOU WANT THE BEST

for your child, and you understand that completing education beyond high school leads to more opportunities, higher earnings and a better quality of life.

Every year the 21st Century Scholarship makes it possible for thousands of young Hoosiers to afford college, but Indiana is equally committed to helping **Scholar parents and other adults** get the education and training they need to get ahead, too.

Free Education and Training for Hoosier Adults

There's never been a better time to skill up in Indiana with new financial aid options designed specifically with the needs of working-age adults in mind, including:

- **Workforce Ready Grant:** Choose from 140+ tuition-free certificates at Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University in some of Indiana's highest-demand, high-wage fields: Advanced Manufacturing, Building & Construction, Health & Life Sciences, IT & Business Services, and Transportation & Logistics.

- **Adult Student Grant:** Receive a renewable \$2,000 grant toward a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree at colleges and universities across Indiana. Many campuses also offer special programs and incentives—like flexible class schedules, online courses and college credit for work and military experience—for adult students.

99% of all new jobs created this decade have required education and training beyond high school, so now is the time to and take your life and career to the next level.

**Free Training. Better Jobs.
Stronger Indiana.**



Visit NextLevelJobs.org to get started today.

Dear Student,

Congratulations on becoming a 21st Century Scholar!

In middle school you may think college is a long way off, but there are many ways to set yourself up to be successful in high school, college and your future career.

Even if you don't know exactly what career you want to pursue or what type of college you want to attend, it's important to start making a plan now that will help you reach your goals.

That's why Indiana developed the Scholar Success Program. During high school — starting as a freshman — you will complete activities at each grade level that will help you stay on track for your education beyond high school. And remember: As a 21st Century Scholar, you have committed to the Scholar Pledge, which includes completing the Scholar Success Program in high school, as well as meeting other academic requirements and remaining drug- and crime-free.

This guide will give you an overview of the requirements of the 21st Century Scholars program, as well as many other things you can do now to prepare for high school and college success:

- ✓ **Work hard in school.** Develop good study habits, participate in class and earn good grades.
- ✓ **Get involved outside the classroom.** Did you know colleges look for well-rounded students who demonstrate leadership and devote time to their schools and communities? Stand out by getting involved with extracurricular activities and clubs at school and taking advantage of volunteer opportunities. It's also a good way to make friends and explore your interests.
- ✓ **Start saving for college.** It's never too early — or too late — for you and your family to start thinking about saving and paying for college. The 21st Century Scholarship covers up to four years of college tuition, but there are additional expenses — such as books and meal plans — to consider. Begin doing research to understand what college costs, what financial aid is available and what steps you will need to take to pay for expenses not covered by your scholarship.

Take control of your future by making smart choices now and staying on track for high school, college and career success.

Have a great school year!

Teresa Lubbers
Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

21st CENTURY SCHOLAR PLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

As a 21st Century Scholar, you have taken the Scholar Pledge to meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college and career success. The chart below shows all 12 activities that you must complete by high school graduation.
- ✓ Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ✓ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- ✓ Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- ✓ Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- ✓ Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.
- ✓ Do not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.



The **Scholar Success Program** includes activities that will help you stay on track for college and career success.

GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan ¹	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience ²	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)	Search for Scholarships ³
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA

1. Plan should be updated annually to keep students on track for high school graduation and college admission.
 2. Includes job shadowing, internship, part-time employment, interviewing a professional or related experience linked to a student's career aspirations.
 3. Includes any additional scholarship opportunities beyond the 21st Century Scholarship.

My name is Emily.

I'm a Scholar, and I'm interested in a career as a nurse.



What do you think you want to study in college, and why?

I'm interested in a career in nursing. I have a passion for helping people, and I've always wanted to do something in the medical field.

What's the biggest benefit of being a 21st Century Scholar?

I know I'll be able to go to college because the program will help me pay for it. My family is saving money for college, but knowing I'm a Scholar means I know I'll have the opportunity to go to college.

YOU ARE ALREADY ON THE ROAD TO COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS.

Here are some tips to help you keep going:

- Sit close to the front of the classroom, whenever possible.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Stay organized (use folders, planners and other tools).
- Keep up with class assignments and homework.
- Ask for help from your teachers, counselors and parents when you need it.
- Get enough sleep.
- Eat right — make healthy food choices to keep your mind focused.

STUDENTS

What steps must you take in high school to achieve your goals? If you're not sure, that's ok! That's the whole point of the Scholar Success Program: to guide you every step of the way as you stay on track for college and career success.

But first, you need to create a ScholarTrack account!

Getting started

During high school, you will complete the Scholar Success Program using ScholarTrack, an online tool that will guide you through the Scholar Success Program. You can create your account now to access resources and more information that will help you prepare for what you'll need to do in high school. You can even start completing the Scholar Success Program now! Create a personalized account at ScholarTrack.IN.gov to get started.

Keep your contact information updated

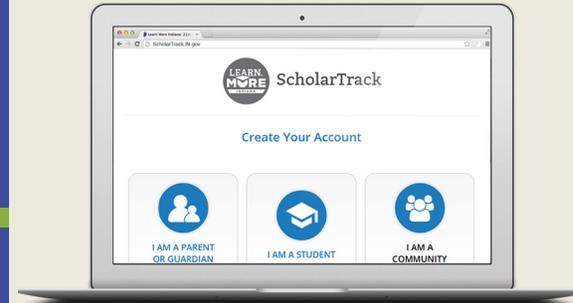
During high school, you'll receive information and resources to help you stay on track. Keep your mailing address, email address and phone number up to date to make sure you don't miss anything. If your contact information changes at any point, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

Don't have a computer?

If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, use a computer at school, a public library or a friend's house. Or talk to your school counselor, parents or teachers for help finding a computer with Internet access.

STAY ON TRACK WITH SCHOLARTRACK!

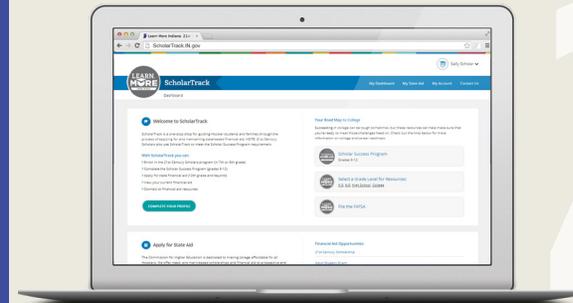
Visit ScholarTrack.IN.gov



1

GET STARTED

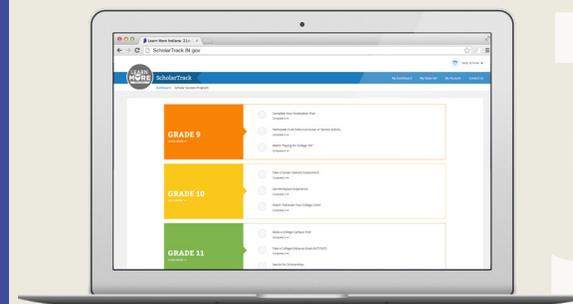
Go to ScholarTrack.IN.gov. Click "Create an Account" and select "I am a student." Students should be prepared to enter their name, date of birth, email address and Social Security Number (SSN) or Scholar ID.



2

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Students can create a full or limited account. Full accounts, which require an SSN, grant access to all of ScholarTrack. Limited accounts, which require a Scholar ID, only grant access to the Scholar Success Program. Upgrade to a full account by adding an SSN at any time.



3

START TRACKING

If you've created a full account, from the dashboard, select "Scholar Success Program" under the "My State Aid" tab to complete the required Scholar Success Program activities in high school.



TIPS TO HELP YOUR STUDENT SUCCEED.

There are many other ways you can help your child succeed in high school and prepare for college success. Starting now, and throughout high school, you can do the following to help your student:

- Review classwork and homework with him or her nightly.
- Regularly review online grades and progress reports.
- Meet with teachers and counselors to discuss progress or any concerns.
- Identify a quiet place at home to study.
- Develop a daily homework schedule.
- Talk about college and career plans.

PARENTS

You want the best for your child, and middle school is the perfect time to start thinking about the future.

Each year of high school, your child will be required to complete the Scholar Success Program. At the beginning of each year, sit down with your Scholar and review the requirements for the upcoming school year and brainstorm together ways to achieve his or her goals.

What is the Scholar Success Program?

The Scholar Success Program helps students prepare for college and career success and stay on track to earn the 21st Century Scholarship, which helps pay tuition, or the cost of attending classes, at Indiana colleges. Each grade level has three activities that must be completed by June 30 of that school year. Scholars must complete the specific steps and track their progress online using ScholarTrack.

What is ScholarTrack?

ScholarTrack is the one-stop-shop for Hoosiers' state financial aid needs. Scholars use ScholarTrack to track their completion of the Scholar Success Program. Learn more about creating a ScholarTrack account on page 7. To track activities in ScholarTrack, Scholars should select "Scholar Success Program" under the "My State Aid" tab on their dashboard.

How can I help my Scholar?

First, read through this guide with your Scholar and help them start thinking about a plan for high school. Then check out Scholars.IN.gov. Here, you'll find information about each grade level, and a list of partners that can help your child succeed. Plus, you can log in to ScholarTrack with your child and check his or her progress together.

My name is Juan.

I'm a Scholar, and I'm interested in a career as a mechanic.



How do you think the 21st Century Scholars program is helping you prepare for college?

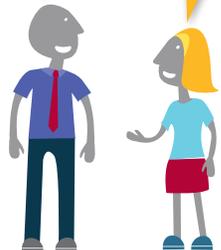
It makes the whole process easier to understand. It's giving me steps so I know what I have to do to get to college.

Have you or your family started preparing for college?

We're saving money for college to cover things the 21st Century Scholarship doesn't. And, we've gone on a couple of college visits. So far, we've visited Indiana University Kokomo and Ivy Tech Community College.

SO, HOW'S THE HOMEWORK GOING TONIGHT?

OK, BUT I AM REALLY STUCK ON THIS MATH PROBLEM. DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?



RESOURCES

GOT QUESTIONS?



Scholars.IN.gov



Scholars@che.IN.gov



888-528-4719



ASK YOUR
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR



We know the road to college can be confusing, which is why Indiana has created this guide and many other resources to answer your questions and help you succeed in high school and prepare for college.

School Counselors

The first people you can turn to for help are your school counselors. They have been through the process before, helped many other students like you and can connect you to the assistance you need.

Scholars.IN.gov

The 21st Century Scholars website is a comprehensive resource for you and the Scholar Success Program. For more information about the program requirements discussed in this guide, check out Scholars.IN.gov/grade-7-8.

Student Support Center: 888-528-4719

Call the Student Support Center if you have any questions about the 21st Century Scholars program. Or you can email us at Scholars@che.IN.gov.

Regional Outreach Coordinators

Contact your regional Outreach Coordinator. To locate your Outreach Coordinator, visit Scholars.IN.gov/contact-us.

LearnMoreIndiana.org

Learn More Indiana has answers to your questions about planning, preparing and paying for college completion and career success.

Facebook: [Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN](https://www.facebook.com/LearnMoreIN)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/LearnMoreIN](https://twitter.com/LearnMoreIN)

Instagram: [@LearnMoreIndiana](https://www.instagram.com/LearnMoreIndiana)

YouTube: [YouTube.com/LearnMoreIN](https://www.youtube.com/LearnMoreIN)

College Success Coalitions

Learn More Indiana has developed a growing network of state and local organizations working to help more Hoosiers access and complete college.

To find a College Success Coalition near you, visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/coalitions.

I PLEDGE to graduate with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma from a state-accredited Indiana high school. I will complete the Scholar Success Program that helps me stay on track for college and career success. I will achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol or commit a crime or delinquent act. I will apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college my senior year and apply on time for student financial aid. I aim **TO SUCCEED.**

YOU ARE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS!

*Look inside for important information to keep you
on track for college and career success.*



Scholars.IN.gov



**Indiana Commission
for Higher Education**

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