CONGRATS
21st CENTURY SCHOLAR

A program of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education
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

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**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.
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.

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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>REQUIRED ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Create a Graduation Plan¹</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Watch “Paying for College 101”</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Take a Career Interests Assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Get Workplace Experience²</td>
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<td>Estimate the Costs of College</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Visit a College Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Search for Scholarships³</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Submit Your College Application</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watch “College Success 101”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>File Your FAFSA</td>
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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.
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.
SO, HOW'S THE HOMEWORK GOING TONIGHT? OK, BUT I AM REALLY STUCK ON THIS MATH PROBLEM. DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

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.
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
Twitter: Twitter.com/LearnMoreIN
Instagram: @LearnMoreIndiana
YouTube: 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.

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**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