

APPROVED
March 15, 2023



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Interim General Counsel

Item #G-7
March 15, 2023

2023 Updates to the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework

Submitted for: Consent.

Summary: The Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework provides guidance to students, families, and educators about the types of experiences and information a student should have to make decisions about college and careers. Legislation passed in June 2022 requires Illinois public school districts to adopt and implement the PaCE Framework beginning in sixth grade and extending to the senior year of high school. Multiple state agencies and stakeholders have made updates to the framework, including extending activities into the sixth grade. State education agencies will each take action to approve the updated PaCE Frameworks for middle and high school.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve updates to the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework for high school and the addition of PaCE Framework experiences for middle school.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

2023 Updates to the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations Framework

The Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework provides guidance to students, families, and educators about the types of experiences and information a student should have to make decisions about college and careers. The coordinated and sequenced experiences outlined in the framework provide students with opportunities to explore career pathways; understand the education and training required for specific careers; have exposure to college and other postsecondary learning opportunities through college visits, dual credit coursework, and work-based learning; receive guidance and support for completing applications for financial aid and college admission, and; develop understanding about affordability options along with expected entry-level career salary. The Illinois PaCE Framework, as originally conceived and updated, aligns with the goals of “A Thriving Illinois.” The Illinois PaCE Framework advances:

- Equity Strategy 1: Support the ongoing learning renewal of students and systemic implementation of evidence-informed student support practices.
- Equity Strategy 2: Expand equitable access, support, and success in rigorous and strategic early college coursework.
- Equity Strategy 8: Expand the role of college access and support models to positively impact college-going and completion rates.
- Growth Strategy 4: Encourage high school graduates to enroll in our higher education system and keep talent in Illinois.

In the Spring of 2015, the Illinois House adopted House Resolution (HR) 477, a resolution calling for the agencies participating in the Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee, which included the State Board of Education, Community College Board, Board of Higher Education, Student Assistance Commission, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Department of Employment Security, to study methods to better prepare high school graduates for success in college and/or career. That resolution led to the formation of four advisory committees focused on distinct strategy areas for improving student outcomes. More than 120 stakeholders participated in the study and consensus building work and recommendations were presented to the Illinois P-20 Council. The College and Career Readiness Committee of the P-20 council adopted the recommendations. In 2016, HB 5729 was introduced, a bill that incorporated the work of the HR477 committees and community feedback. The bill was passed and signed into law in July of 2016, and Public Act 99-0674 established the [Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness \(PWR\) Act](#).

In June 2022, HB 3296 was signed into law ([Public Act 102-0917](#)), requiring that school districts establish career pathway endorsement programs and adopt either the model Illinois PaCE Framework or a customized version by 2025. Specifically Chicago Public Schools must adopt and implement by July 1, 2024; all other public school districts must adopt and implement no later than July 1, 2025. Districts may opt out under specified circumstances. The law also required that the working group that developed the PaCE Framework add descriptions of supports that should be provided for younger students, starting with grade six.

The state agencies and stakeholders previously noted have developed changes to the Illinois PaCE Framework as shown in the graphics below. State education agencies will each take action on the updates to the Illinois PaCe Framework for middle and high school.

By the end of 8th grade

None

By the end of 9th grade

Original

Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey

Complete an orientation to career clusters

Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators

Begin determining eligibility for advanced placement (AP) courses

Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member

One or two career clusters for further exploration development

Updates

Complete a career cluster survey

Complete a career interest survey

Select coursework for PS/Career Plans that align with ISBE CCRI

Enroll as appropriate in advance placement courses

Attend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member

One or two careers for further exploration

By the end of 10th grade

Original

Complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping

Select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest

Begin determining eligibility for AP course

Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process

Attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member

Updates

Participate in activities related to their career cluster of interest

Explore a career pathway (CP)

Deleted

Connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection process

Attend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member

By the end of 11th grade

Original

Revisit the career survey

Identify an internship opportunity related to the CP

Complete or enroll in at least one early college credit opportunity

New benchmark

Application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for CP

Updates

Revisit the career interest survey

Explore the process of obtaining an industry based credential related

Complete at least one early college opportunity

Complete a postsecondary plan workshop

MOVED TO 10TH GRADE Skills related to career interests

By the end of 12th grade

Original

Met with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PD admissions process are completed on time

Attended a FAFSA completion workshop

Completed the FAFSA

Complete one or more team-based challenges or projects related to CP

Attend a financial aid award letter workshop

Estimated cost of each PS option

Updates

Ensure that all steps in the postsecondary process are completed on time

Attended a financial aid application completion workshop

Completed a financial application

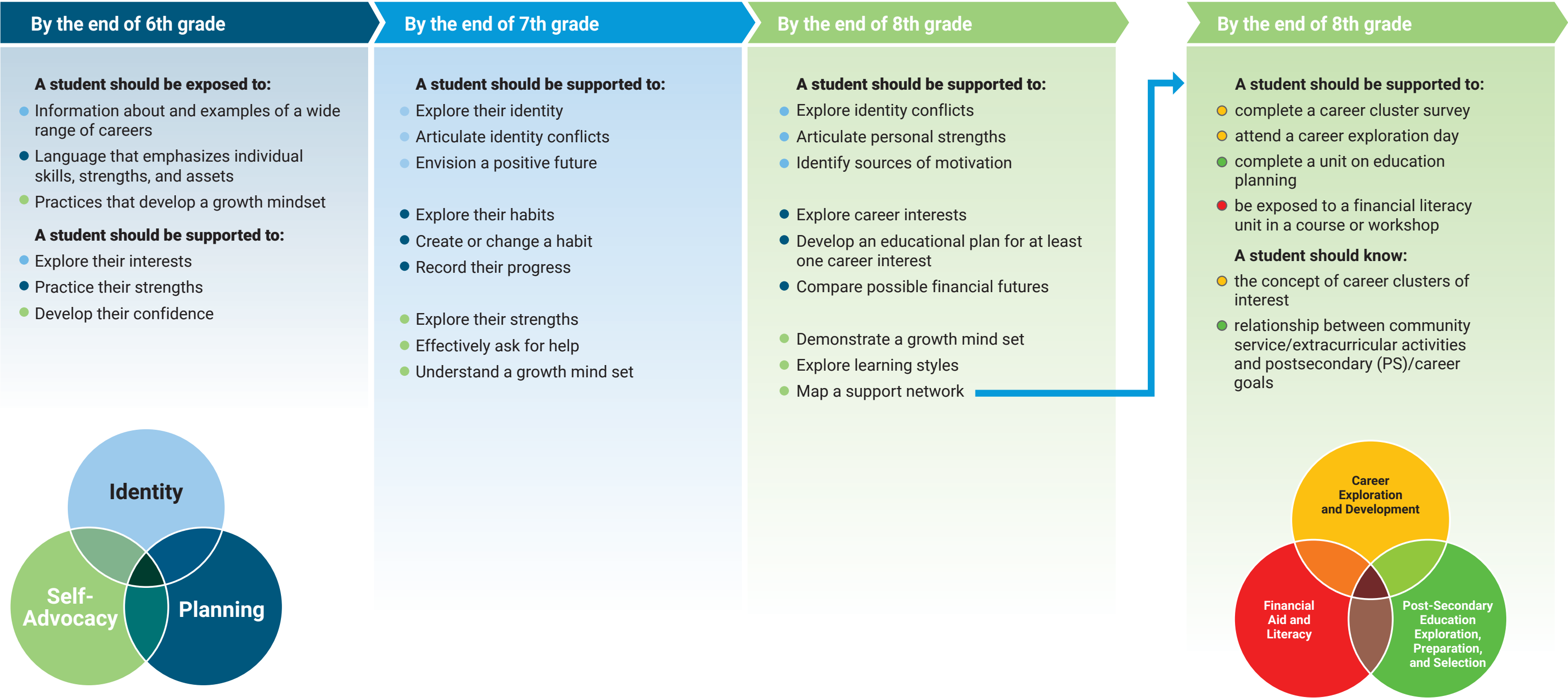
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Attend a financial aid offer workshop

Estimated cost of chosen PS options

Illinois PaCE Postsecondary and Career Expectations

At the middle school and early high school level, the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework is designed to provide students with guided exploration of postsecondary planning and options in a manner that is consistent with the developmental stage of each student. This developmental work is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the PaCE Framework throughout the high school years.



Illinois PaCE Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions about career and post-secondary (PS) education or training, to plan a course of study, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.



By the end of 8th grade	By the end of 9th grade	By the end of 10th grade	By the end of 11th grade	By the end of 12th grade
<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">complete a career cluster surveyattend a career exploration daycomplete a unit on education planningbe exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the concept of career clusters of interestrelationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">complete a career cluster surveycomplete a career interest surveyattend a PS options workshopselect course work for PS/career plans aligned with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicatorsenroll as appropriate in advanced placement (AP) coursesoutline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plansattend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">one or two careers for further explorationthe relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plansimportance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plansgeneral cost ranges of various PS options	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">visit at least one workplace aligned with career interestsparticipate in activities related to their career cluster of interestexplore career pathways (CP)connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection processreview coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year)attend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected CPskills related to career interestsdifferent types of PS credentials and institutionsgeneral timing of PS entrance exams and applicationsbenefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">revisit the career interest surveyparticipate in a mock job interviewcreate a resume and personal statementexplore the process of obtaining an industry-based credential related to CP if applicabledetermine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" coursecomplete at least one early college credit opportunityattend a college fairvisit at least 3 PS institutionstake at least one college entrance examComplete a Postsecondary Plan Workshop <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for CPentrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of studynegative impact of remediation on PS goalsfinancial aid deadlines for chosen PS options	<p>By the end of 12th grade a student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">address any remedial needs in math/ELAobtain an internship opportunity related to the CP if applicableif applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to the CPcomplete a financial aid offer workshop <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">how CP courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS optionsestimated cost of chosen PS optionsaffordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debtterms and conditions of any scholarship or loan <p>By 12/31 of 12th grade a student should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutionsensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on timeattended a Financial Aid Application completion workshopcompleted a financial aid application

