Grades 3-5
Indiana’s Guide to Student Success

How much do you know about college?
Take the quiz! PAGE 5

Tips for staying on track
PAGE 11

A partnership of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Department of Workforce Development
Dear Indiana Students,

Welcome to Learn More!

Are you ready to think about your future? It might seem like a long way off, but you can begin planning now for the future you want. In Learn More, you will learn about careers in Indiana, what college will be like and how you can start thinking about the costs of college. You will also read about students from all over Indiana who are exploring their college and career goals, too.

We want you to dream big. Think about what you want to do and set goals to help you get there. Don’t forget to try your hardest every day and to ask for help when you need it, too. Doing these things will help you get ready for high school, college and your future career.

After you finish this magazine, talk to your family and teachers about your goals and check in often so they can help you succeed.

Have a great school year!

Virtual Scavenger Hunt

It’s time to learn even more about your college and career options! Look through this magazine and visit LearnMoreIndiana.org to look for this icon. Write down the word in each icon on the website to spell out a secret message.

What message did you discover?

WORD 1

WORD 2

WORD 3

WORD 4

You’ve probably been asked what you want to be when you grow up. Whether or not you know the answer, this magazine will help you plan for the future you want. Thinking about what you like to do and what you’re good at can help you choose a job that you’ll enjoy.

1. What are your goals for the next year? How about 10 years?

2. Who are some of your heroes? Why do they influence you?

3. When you’re not in school, who do you like to spend time with? Draw a star above your response.

4. What makes you excited about going to school?
WHAT IS COLLEGE?

Did you know that the word "college" means a lot of different things? College is any education and training you get after high school.

Students go to a college or university and learn for 1, 2, 4 or more years! There are other kinds of college, too. Some students enroll in an apprenticeship or join the military, where they learn most of what they need to know on the job or by serving our county. No matter what option you choose, college is all about learning that prepares you for your future career.

COLLEGE PLEDGE

I, ____________________________________________

will continue my education after high school when I graduate in the year __________________________

I want to continue my education because ____________________________________________________________

After college, I want to be a ____________________________

I will succeed!

Your Signature Here

TEST YOUR COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

There are a lot of reasons to go to college! College grads have more job opportunities, which means they have more options to find a career that is just the right fit.

1. College grads earn $500,000 more in their lifetime than someone with a high school diploma.
2. There are a lot of options for college in Indiana! There are more than 50 colleges and universities in Indiana.
3. When I go to college, I have to live on campus.
4. College is a term that applies to a lot of different kinds of education and training after high school.
5. When college students graduate, they wear a special cap called a floppysquare.
6. I can take college courses in high school.

Read these statements and decide if they are true or false.

Then, turn to page 9 to find out how you did!

EXPLORE COLLEGES IN INDIANA!

Use the Learn More Indiana School Finder Tool!
Types of College

There are more than 50 colleges in Indiana. When you decide what you want to be when you grow up, there will be a lot of options to help you get there! Check out some of your options below.

Workforce Certificate:
A shorter program (usually one to two years) that teaches you skills for a specific job.

Associate Degree:
Going to school, mostly in a classroom, for two years.

Bachelor’s Degree:
Going to school, mostly in a classroom, for four years. This is what most people think of when they hear the word “college.”

Graduate Degree:
This is an advanced program that involves going to school for another one to two years after you finish your bachelor’s degree.

Apprenticeship:
A program where you learn on the job and in a classroom. Apprenticeships usually take three to five years.

Military:
Also called the Armed Forces, the military includes the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and more.

What Makes Us Different, Makes Us Awesome

Even though there are billions of people in the world, no two people are the same. Even people who might look the same on the outside are different inside. Our differences make us special and interesting. Imagine if everyone were exactly the same – life would be pretty boring!

When people are different, it’s called diversity. Some examples of diversity are easy to see, like different hair, eye and skin colors. There are other types of diversity, too. People speak different languages, come from different cultures and have different religions.

CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES

Sometimes, it might be hard to understand how someone is different from you. Maybe you celebrate different holidays or eat different food. When someone is different, it is important to be respectful. It is okay to ask questions, but remember to think about how you would feel if someone asked you that question.

Surrounding yourself with people who are different from you is important because you can learn new things from them. For example, you might learn how to say words in a different language or you might learn about different family traditions. Everywhere you go, you will see and meet people who are different from you.

Farrah, 4th Grade

Farrah loves animals and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. She’s working hard in school now so she’s ready for college. Her advice for other students? “Stay strong. Be yourself. Be good to yourself.” There’s no one quite like you, and that makes our world diverse!

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Celebrate Our Differences

That’s awesome, because we need people who are good at different things to do different jobs and use their skills to improve the world. This is why being different makes our world a better place.

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What have you learned from someone who is different than you?
Write your answer below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Now, imagine you’re a superhero. How will you use the three things listed above to save the world? What is your superpower?

What is your superhero name?

Hello, my name is
The money you pay for college classes is called **tuition**. Tuition is what colleges charge students to go to the classes or training they need to earn a degree or certificate. There are other things you will need to pay for in college, like books, food and somewhere to live, too.

**...But it’s worth it!**

College costs money, but it’s worth it. In college, you’ll learn what you need to know to get a job by earning a degree or certificate. Your degree or certificate will show employers, the people who you will work for, that you are ready for your career.

### WAYS TO PAY

You don’t have to pay for college by yourself! You can get help to pay for college through **financial aid**, or money you get for college. There are three kinds of financial aid. Unscramble the letters below to learn about them.

This is money you earn for college you don’t have to pay back. You can earn one for getting good grades, or for activities you do like sports, music or art.

**S H R C I O S L H A P**

This is also free money for college! These come from the government or your future college. They are given to students who need help paying their tuition.

**N R A G T**

This is money for college you have to pay back. The bank will charge you for the money you borrow, plus extra money, called interest, for letting you borrow their money.

**O A L N**

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**FREE money for college!**

Did you know you can earn a scholarship from the State of Indiana to go to college for free? The scholarship is called the 21st Century Scholars program. You can apply for the scholarship in middle school. Until then, talk to your family about your future.

Here are some questions to ask them:

- What is high school like?
- When you were my age, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- Did you go to college?
- If so, what is it like?
- What kinds of jobs do you think I would like or be good at?

Here are some questions they might ask you:

- What is your favorite subject?
- What do you want to do when you grow up?
- What do you think college will be like?
- What are two goals you have for this year?

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**Answer Key from Page 5:**

1. False. On average, college grads earn $1,000,000 more in their lifetime!
2. True.
3. False. Some students live on campus in a residence hall, some live in apartments off campus and some live at home.
4. True.
5. False. When college students graduate, they wear a cap called a mortarboard.
6. True.
Doing Things on Your Own

When you were little, your caregiver had to do so much for you. Now you can do so much by yourself. It’s up to you to decide what is important to you and to always do your best. Doing things by yourself can feel scary sometimes, and it takes practice. Here are three ideas for you to try out to help you practice being more independent:

1. Plan your schedule for the week using your to-do list (see the next page for tips!).
2. Ask questions when grown-ups give you feedback so you understand how to improve for next time.
3. Make a list of the things you love and that are important, and make time to do these things.

Taking Initiative

Initiative means taking action to do the right thing without having to be asked to do it. For example, you may show initiative when you start studying for a test the week before it happens, instead of waiting until the night before.

Like any skill, taking initiative requires patience and practice.

**Ben, 4th Grade**

Ben loves drawing. Someday, he may even earn a scholarship for his art! Ben thinks saving money for the future is important so you have money when you need it. Saving money now means you’ll have money to help pay for college later.

To Do... Done

You have more to do at school, at home and in your community, and you’ll need to learn ways to manage your time. A to-do list will help you keep track of what you have to do so you can get everything done and still have room for fun. Here are tips for making a great to-do list:

1. Break down big tasks into smaller ones, and put those smaller tasks on your to-do list. For example, do you need to finish a book and write the book report this week? Try reading 10 minutes each day instead of finishing it the night before it is due.
2. Ask yourself “How much time will this take?” Estimating the time it will take you to walk the dog or finish your math homework will help you decide when to do things.
3. Check it off! Check off each item as you finish it, and reward yourself for getting it all done. Watch your favorite movie, ask for a treat or go for a bike ride – whatever makes you happy!

Take Time to Relax

With more homework and more on your schedule, it can be easy to feel stress. Deep breaths can help you feel calm. Try this breathing exercise next time you’re feeling upset or stressed:

- Breathe in and count to 1
- Breathe out and count to 2
- Breathe in and count to 3
- Breathe out and count to 4
- Breathe in and count to 5
- Breathe out and count to 6

You can do this as many times as you need to feel calm and relaxed. And remember, it’s always okay to ask for help. If you’re feeling stressed, anxious, or you’re struggling in a class, you’re not alone! Find someone to talk to, like a parent, guardian, teacher or school counselor.

**Student Success Strategy:**

Write down three ways you’re planning to take initiative this year. Revisit this list throughout the year to see how you’re improving!

1. 
2. 
3. 

Cost

Cost
A career is the job you will do after you finish high school and college. Having a career is important because it is a way to support yourself and your family when you grow up. It also gives you the freedom to do and buy things you might want. If you start planning for your career now, you’ll set yourself up for success in the future!

**Learn about all of the different types of scholarships for college in Indiana here.**

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**Superpower Spotlight: Empathy**

Have you ever been asked to put yourself in someone else’s shoes? If so, you’ve been asked to practice empathy.

Empathy helps us understand how others feel or experience a situation. To practice empathy, we must first respect what makes people different. Empathy means recognizing that not everyone reacts to situations like we do, and that’s okay. Instead, we should consider their point of view. Have you ever gotten excited for a friend when they made a sports team, or included someone in a game who was being left out? You were practicing empathy.

Empathy helps us get along with and show respect for others. By recognizing and celebrating what makes someone different, we better understand their perspectives and feelings.

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**Imagine Your Future**

What do you want to be when you grow up?

One of the best ways to start thinking about your future is to consider what you like to do and what you are good at. Your interests and skills can help you decide your future career. There are so many to choose from! Think about yourself in 15 years. What does your future self do?

What subjects in school would be helpful?

College might be a long way off, but you can start getting ready for your future now! Think about what subjects might be helpful for your future and try to learn as much as you can.

Create a plan

Use the lines below to write down two careers you’re interested in. Not sure? That’s ok! Just think about two careers you think might be cool or fun.

Now, think about what subjects in school would be helpful and write them next to each career.

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**Joey, 4th Grade**

Joey wants to be an engineer when he grows up. He’s preparing to be an engineer now by working hard in math and science class and learning about building things with Legos. Do you have a future career in mind? If so, work hard in classes that relate to your career interests.
Hot Indiana Careers

When you graduate from college, you will enter the workforce and start your career. Here are some careers that are popular in Indiana. Indiana will need lots of people to work in these types of jobs (and many more, too!).

**DOCTOR:** Do you love science? You might want to be a doctor. Doctors take care of people who are hurt or sick. Doctors pick an area to focus on, like working with kids, healing bones or performing surgery. Doctors go to college for at least 8 years to earn a doctoral degree.

**ACCOUNTANT:** Are numbers your thing? You might want to be an accountant. Accountants help companies manage their money. They make sure companies have money to pay for their expenses while still making a profit. Accountants go to school for four years to earn a bachelor’s degree.

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:** If you’re a leader who likes buildings, consider construction management. Construction managers know how to build things. They also know how to help employees and keep things on schedule. Construction managers go to college for at least two years to earn an associate degree.

**MECHANIC:** Are you interested in how things work? Mechanics figure out what is wrong with a machine and fix it. Mechanics might work on cars, trains, airplanes and other kinds of machines. Some mechanics enter an apprenticeship program, and some earn a workforce certificate.

**TEACHER:** Do you like helping people? You might want to be a teacher. Teachers help students learn things like math, science or art. Some teachers work with small kids, some work with teenagers and some work with adults. Most teachers go to college for at least four years to earn a bachelor’s degree.

**ACCOUNTANT:** What if you want to make money? Accountants help companies keep track of their money. They make sure the numbers are right. Accountants go to school for four years to earn a bachelor’s degree.

**MECHANIC:** Are you interested in how things work? Mechanics figure out what is wrong with a machine and fix it. Mechanics might work on cars, trains, airplanes and other kinds of machines. Some mechanics enter an apprenticeship program, and some earn a workforce certificate.

**Teacher:** Do you like helping people? You might want to be a teacher. Teachers help students learn things like math, science or art. Some teachers work with small kids, some work with teenagers and some work with adults. Most teachers go to college for at least four years to earn a bachelor’s degree.

**Construction Manager:** If you’re a leader who likes buildings, consider construction management. Construction managers know how to build things. They also know how to help employees and keep things on schedule. Construction managers go to college for at least two years to earn an associate degree.

**Mechanic:** Are you interested in how things work? Mechanics figure out what is wrong with a machine and fix it. Mechanics might work on cars, trains, airplanes and other kinds of machines. Some mechanics enter an apprenticeship program, and some earn a workforce certificate.

**ZOEY, 3rd Grade**

Zoey likes to stay busy! Her hobbies include reading, writing, crafting, soccer, volleyball and spending time with her pets. The activities you are involved in after school are called extracurricular activities. They can help you develop skills like teamwork and leadership.

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**Parents Corner**

Dear Indiana Parents,

Learn More isn’t just for kids. We encourage you to read this magazine with your child as a way to talk about college and career readiness. It’s never too early to start thinking about your child’s future, including career choices, college options and how to pay for it all. And, if you’re thinking about going back to school yourself, now is a great time to start researching the many financial aid programs Indiana has to offer adult students.

Sincerely,

Eric Holcomb
Governor
State of Indiana

Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Indiana Department of Education

Teresa Lubbers
Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Read on to learn more about these opportunities or visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/StateFinancialAid

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**How Can I Help My Child Prepare and Pay for College and His or Her Future Career?**

- Make teachers, counselors and administrators partners in helping your child succeed.
- Help your child build good study skills and habits.
- Ask your child about their aspirations — what subjects do they like best? What hobbies do they enjoy most? How can these interests and hobbies translate into a career?
- Talk to your child about your career, whether that’s in a job outside the home or as a full-time parent, and serve as a positive role model for them.
- Start saving now. Consider setting up an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan. It’s an easy way to invest in your child’s education tax-free and hopefully reduce the need to take on costly student loans later. Features include tax benefits, automatic deposits, gifting and more. Visit CollegeChoiceDirect.com to learn more.

**Ready to Move to the Next Level?**

If your employment situation has changed or you’re looking to take the next step in your career, Indiana can help. Visit YourNextStepIN.org to get connected with jobs, education and training and other supports, including the Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant, which pays full tuition for short-term, high-value certificates in:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Building and Construction
- Health and Life Sciences
- Information Technology and Business Services
- Transportation and Logistics

To learn more about qualifying programs, visit NextLevelJobs.org today.
Note: Some Ivy Tech Community College campuses have multiple locations.

County colors represent the Indiana Commission for Higher Education’s Outreach Regions. Learn more about Indiana’s colleges at LearnMoreIndiana.org.