What’s your personality type and what does it say about you?

A guide to help you find the right college experience

Page 3

Page 7

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, your guide to reaching your college and career goals. Maybe you have an idea of your next step. Maybe you’re still exploring your options. No matter what, LEARN MORE can help you plan for the future you want. In this magazine you’ll learn about:

- Growing careers in Indiana and how to find a career you’ll enjoy.
- Your options after high school, like an apprenticeship, associate degree, bachelor’s degree and more.
- How to cut the costs of higher education.

Your path to success starts now – and that means taking the right steps to prepare yourself for life after high school. Flip through these pages to start learning about how you can reach your goals. And, read about other Indiana students who are working hard to make their dreams come true.

After you finish this magazine, talk to your family and teachers about your goals and check in regularly 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?

Vibha, 10th Grade

Vibha is interested in a career in biosciences or communications. Either way, she knows she’ll need to go to college. To get ready, she’s taking career and technical education classes and AP classes. Taking these kinds of specialized classes can get you career experiences and college credit – saving you time and money in the future.
What do you want to do with your life?
You don’t need to know exactly what your plans are – in fact, many people your age, and older, don’t. No matter what you decide to do, continuing your education after high school will give you a path to success.

And, think about the benefits.
Higher education gives you more job opportunities and job security.
That means landing – and keeping – the career of your dreams will be easier with a college degree or credential.

You will also gain a sense of purpose. People who go to college are more likely to vote and volunteer in their communities – things that truly make a difference in our world.

All this doesn’t mean your path needs to look like your best friend’s path. There are a lot of options for education after high school. The important part is picking the one that’s best for you.

Don’t believe it?
CONSIDER THIS:
For a person living in Indiana, you’ll want to make at least $40,000 a year to be able to afford your living expenses and have some spending money, too.

TRY IT OUT:
If you worked 40 hours a week for 52 weeks, about how much an hour would you need to make?

Q: If you worked 40 hours a week for 52 weeks, about how much an hour would you need to make?

TRY IT OUT:
To work 40 hours a week for 52 weeks, you’ll need to make at least $20 an hour.

That means you’ll need to make close to $20 an hour. To get a job that pays at least that much, you will need some education and training after high school.

What options do you have?
You have a lot of options for education after high school, from the courses you take to the diploma you earn. Here are your primary diploma options:

Core 40: A standard high school diploma designed to prepare students for many college programs and careers.
Core 40 with Academic Honors: A high school diploma that requires students to complete academically challenging courses. Some four-year colleges in Indiana require this type of diploma.
Core 40 with Technical Honors: A high school diploma that requires students to complete college and career prep courses. Some technical programs and apprenticeships require this type of diploma.
International Baccalaureate: A rigorous high school program that includes foreign languages and independent study. You may also receive college credit for IB courses. Check to see if your high school offers this program — not all schools do.

Here are specialty class options your school might offer.

Advanced Placement (AP): College-level courses offered in high school. If you score well on AP exams, you may earn college credit — saving you time and money down the road.
Dual-Credit Courses: College courses taught in high school or at a local college that can get you credit for high school and college. Talk to your school counselor about how to sign up and how your credits will transfer when you go to college. Visit TransferIN.net to learn more.
CTE Courses: CTE means “career and technical education.” These courses give you the skills you’ll need for a variety of career areas, like manufacturing, graphic design, agriculture, health sciences and more. Some CTE programs even give you the chance to earn a certificate or credential to get you started on your career path.

As a high school student, you have a lot of options.
From the courses you take, to the diploma you earn to the different ways you can complete Indiana’s Graduation Pathways, the choices can seem overwhelming.

It’s a good idea to meet with your school counselor to create a Graduation Plan that fits your future plans and interests. But, before you meet, it can be helpful to have some background knowledge.

Discover your interests – take the Learn More Indiana personality quiz!
Remember, don’t stress. Your first two years of high school are a great time to sample your college and career options. So, take advantage of opportunities to try new things and get out of your comfort zone. For more information, talk to your school counselor or visit the Indiana Department of Education’s website.

Starting with the Class of 2023, you will need to show you are ready for college or a career to earn your high school diploma.

Indiana’s Graduation Pathways are designed to help you meet the state requirements while still giving you the flexibility to pursue what interests you.

Here’s what you’ll need to meet these requirements.

1. Earn a high school diploma.
2. Show you’re ready for college or a career by:
   - Completing a project-based learning experience, like conducting a long-term research assignment;
   - Completing a service-based learning experience, like volunteering or being involved in school activities;
   - Completing a work-based learning experience, like doing an internship or working outside of the school day.

3. Show you’re ready for education beyond high school by:
   - Earning a Core 40 Academic or Technical Honors diploma;
   - Earning a “C” or higher in college-level classes like AP, IB or dual credit;
   - Getting a recognized credential, certification or apprenticeship;
   - Earning placement into one of the branches of the military by taking the ASVAB;
   - Earning college-ready scores on the ACT or SAT; or
   - Earning a “C” or higher in at least six career and technical education (CTE) credits.

Remember, don’t stress. Your first two years of high school are a great time to sample college and career options. So, take advantage of opportunities to try new things and get out of your comfort zone. For more information, talk to your school counselor or visit the Indiana Department of Education’s website.

Paige, 9th Grade
Paige is interested in becoming a lawyer. To get there, she’ll need to get her bachelor’s degree, take the LSAT (Law School Admission Test), attend law school (which takes about three years), then take the bar exam. It’s a lot of steps, but she’s confident she’ll get there by working hard. Have you looked into how to make your career dreams come true? Do some research to make sure your college plans align with your career interests.

Deciding what you want – and don’t want – from a college experience can make it easier for you to make a short list of colleges to look into. The following questions can help point you in the right direction. Don’t worry if you don’t have all the answers right now. You can revisit your responses to add more later or simply start your search with what you do know right now.

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Do I want to be at a school where sports are important? Or a religious school? Or one known for its academics?
Do I want to choose most of my classes or do I prefer more structure?
Do I want small group discussions or large lectures for classes?

COLLEGE LOCATION

How close to home do I want to be?
Do I want to be in a bigger city or a smaller town?
Are there any parts of the country - or even the world - where I want to go to college?

COLLEGE TYPE

How long do I want to go to college?
Do I see myself at a college with lots of students or on a smaller campus?
Do I want to explore other options after high school, like an apprenticeship, technical training or the military?

Curious about your options?
Visit learnmoreindiana.org/college/choosing-a-college to learn more about colleges in Indiana. You can even find a list of virtual tours so you can start exploring colleges in every corner of our state.
Find Your Future

Today, the word **college** refers to any education you receive beyond a high school diploma, and there are a lot of different options for you to consider. Each of these options offers something different, but they will all help you have a good life and fulfilling career.

**Find your future by exploring some of the most common pathways:**

**Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with classroom learning in hands-on fields such as electronic systems and masonry. Apprenticeships help launch you into a career in the skilled trades while working alongside experts. Plus, you get paid while you learn.

**Length:** 2–5 years on average

**Credential:** Industry-recognized credential, such as a Journeyman certification

**How to Prepare:**
- Take career and technical education (CTE) classes that focus on the field you’re interested in.
- Master subjects and skills like geometry, fractions, science and logic.
- Research apprenticeship programs — Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Indiana/Kentucky Chapter is a great place to start.
- Take the WorkKeys placement test if your apprenticeship requires it.

**The Military**

The military allows you to serve our country and advance your education and skills. By joining the military, you can pursue a wide range of careers — from communications to health science, manufacturing and information technology. Some military programs, such as the National Guard, allow you to enroll in a traditional college while you serve our country. And many military programs will pay for college during or after service.

**Length:** Varies. There is usually a specific initial commitment.

**Credential:** Dependent on program, opportunity to receive industry-recognized credentials and college credit for military experience.

**How to Prepare:**
- Stay in shape so you can pass physical fitness tests.
- Stay out of trouble so you can have a clean background check.
- Study hard, because a good score on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a test for military recruits) can give you more options.
- Avoid tattoos below the elbow — the military prohibits any tattoos that might be visible in uniform.
- Talk to local recruiters for more information.
- Continue to perform academically. You will need a strong high school transcript to enroll in college during or after service.

Learn more about earning a certificate for free at NextLevelJobs.org.

**Learn about your two- and four-year college options by scanning the QR code.**

**Two-Year Colleges**

Two-year colleges offer the chance to earn college credentials for less time and money. With an associate degree, you can qualify for careers in health care, sales, automotive, software development and more. Your associate degree can also count toward a bachelor’s degree if you decide you’d like to continue your education later. Two-year college options in Indiana include Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University. You can also earn a short-term workforce certificate at these schools, which can help you gain the learning and training you need to jump into a high-demand career fast.

**Length:** 1–2+ years

**Credential:** Associate degree or workforce certificate

**How to Prepare:**
- Graduate with a Core 40 diploma or a Technical Honors diploma if you can.
- Take placement tests or the SAT or ACT to determine if you can test into certain courses and programs.
- Take AP or dual-credit courses to earn college credit in advance and save money.
- Learn more about how your credits will transfer at TransferIN.net.

**Four-Year Colleges**

Four-year colleges are what most people think of when they hear the word “college.” They award bachelor’s degrees in addition to master’s degrees and doctoral degrees. Many four-year colleges take students’ extracurricular and service activities into consideration in their admissions processes, so it’s important to be involved in your school and community if you want to pursue this option. The more years of college you attend, the more jobs you are likely to qualify for, and the more money you are likely to earn in your career.

**Length:** 4+ years

**Credential:** Bachelor’s degree

**How to Prepare:**
- Graduate with at least a Core 40 diploma and strive to achieve Academic Honors.
- Participate in extracurricular or service activities.
- Push yourself to achieve at least a 3.0 GPA (out of 4.0).
- Take challenging classes such as Advanced Placement or dual-credit.
- Take the ACT or SAT. For more information on these tests, visit CollegeBoard.org (SAT) and ACT.org (ACT).
You've probably heard that college is expensive. That can be true, but your education is one the best investments you'll make in your lifetime. And, there are things you can do today to make college much more affordable. Earn good grades, demonstrate a strong work ethic, and get involved in your school and community to put yourself on a path to scholarships and other kinds of financial aid.

Financial aid can make college less expensive. Do you know about the different kinds of financial aid and how you qualify? To qualify, you must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid — also known as the FAFSA — by April 15 of your senior year of high school and each year you're in college. The FAFSA is one of the ways the government and the college you'll attend make decisions about financial aid.

Here are some terms to know about financial aid:

**Grants:**
Free money for college, often awarded based on your family’s financial need.

**Scholarships:**
Free money for college, often awarded based on your achievements (merit-based), your family’s financial circumstances (need-based) or a group or population you belong to (affinity-based).

**Loans:**
Money you borrow and are expected to pay back. Loans are provided by banks or the federal government and they charge interest—a fee for borrowing money. While loans are helpful, you should try to limit how much money you take out because with interest, you will end up paying much more in the long run. Federal loans usually have lower interest rates, but are limited. You should use up your federal loan eligibility before you take out private loans.

**Work-Study:**
The state or federal government pays you money for working on campus or completing an internship through work-study programs like EARN Indiana. Visit IndianaIntern.net for more information.

The state of Indiana alone gives out over $350 million each year!

**The Scholar Success Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>REQUIRED ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Create a Graduation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Take a Career Interests Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Visit a College Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Submit Your College Application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial Aid Spotlight:** 21st Century Scholars

Education has always been Idriss Bah’s number-one priority. Having moved to the U.S. from Sierra Leone when he was younger, Idriss made it his goal to go to college and get a degree in informatics, which is the study of how computers impact people’s lives.

The 21st Century Scholars program helped make it financially possible for Idriss to go to college. This program offers students the chance to receive up to four years of free tuition at an eligible Indiana college. As a 21st Century Scholar, Idriss earned an associate degree at Ivy Tech Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University – Bloomington.

His advice for students:

Take advantage of opportunities. When you are presented with a great opportunity — such as the 21st Century Scholars program or the chances to earn dual credit or join a summer college program — take it. And once you’re given an opportunity, work hard and don’t let it go to waste.

If you’re a 21st Century Scholar, you must complete all 12 Scholar Success Program requirements before you graduate from high school. Visit ScholarTrack.IN.gov or talk to your school counselor for more information.
Estimating College Costs

Have you ever looked at the price listed on a college’s website?

If you have, you may have gotten sticker shock at such a high dollar amount. The good news is, many students don’t end up paying the price on a college’s website, or the list price, because of financial aid. So how do you know how much you can expect to pay?

The U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard allows you to find out information about the cost of colleges you are interested in.

Go to CollegeScoreCard.ed.gov to get started. You can search for a specific college, or search for all schools in Indiana, using the search option. Once you click on a college, you can see how much a student with your income pays, on average, by clicking the “costs” dropdown menu.

You should never rule out a college because of their list price – you never know what kind of financial aid you’ll qualify for, but the College Scorecard can help you estimate so you’ll be ready when it comes time to fill out the FAFSA and choose a college to attend.

Tania, 12th Grade

Tania’s always been drawn to helping people. That’s how she knows nursing is the right career for her. And, she’s already taking classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), which will give her healthcare experience and a paycheck. She’s hoping to work as a CNA during the summer and while she’s in college to help keep college costs low. If you work a part-time job, try to set aside money from every paycheck to put toward college.

Wise Words: Navigating High School

“Keep your eyes on your goals to get you to where you want to be.”
- Vibha, Grade 10, Columbus East High School

“Try your best, try hard, but have fun. [High school is a time to] do things you wouldn’t normally do.”
- Paige, Grade 9, Bloomington South High School

“If I could change one thing about the world, it would be for people to be less judgmental.”
- Sean, Grade 10, Pike High School

Writing Your Way to Your Future

Are you starting to think about how to get free money for college? How about your college applications?

You should be. The decisions you make now can impact your eligibility for scholarships and what colleges you apply to. Work hard in your classes and seek out leadership positions in any extracurricular or service activities you participate in. And, hone your writing skills.

Many scholarships and college applications require students to submit an essay. The best essays help people understand who you are, what’s important to you and what qualities you bring to the table. And remember, your essay should be about you, not what you think a scholarship judge or admissions representative wants to read.

Check out these common essay topics and think about how you can put the work in now so you’ll have stellar responses your senior year:

• Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
• Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
• Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Vision Board

When you surround yourself with images of your ideal life and who you want to become, you will be reminded of your goals so you can work at them daily. A vision board helps you picture your success and focus your energy on achieving your dreams. How do you define success? What strengths do you want to share with the world? Use this section to sketch them out or write them down. Or, cut out pictures and phrases out of a magazine and paste them below. Remember, if you can see it, you can be it!
The Confidence Code

High school is an exciting time full of firsts - academically and socially. Being new at a school can be intimidating, and it’s normal to feel self-doubt as you adjust. Struggling with self-confidence is common. The key to getting through it is to believe in yourself and all you bring to the table.

We know that’s easier said than done, so here are a few practical tips to build self-confidence. If you follow this advice, you’re sure to succeed in high school and beyond.

Practice self-care.
You can’t earn the respect of others unless you respect yourself first. Self-care not only helps you battle stress, it also gives you the energy you need to shine from within.

Be prepared.
In school and life, being ready for any situation is the key to success. You can stay on top of your assignments and responsibilities by keeping a planner or online to-do list. When you know you have it “together,” you’ll feel like you can handle anything life throws your way.

Be positive about yourself.
You are your biggest cheerleader. Keep your inner critic at bay by practicing positive self-talk. Before you say something negative about yourself, ask, “Would I say this to a friend?”

Accept good vibes only.
It’s true that positivity is contagious. Surround yourself with people who lift you up and have goals similar to your own. You’ll attract positive people by being caring, kind and dependable.

Discover You!

Sean, 10th Grade
Sean knows he wants to leave his mark on the world. He thinks a career in engineering or business will help him do just that. But first, he will need to go to college. He’s keeping his grades up and starting to look at scholarships to help make college more affordable.

It might seem early, but start looking into scholarships now. That way, when your senior year rolls around, you’ll feel confident and ready to apply for them.

Embrace empathy.
When people are hurtful or mean-spirited, it usually has nothing to do with you and everything to do with them. Try to put yourself in a bully’s shoes to understand why he or she is lashing out. When you can identify the real source of negativity, you’re less likely to take it personally.

Change the channel.
Things are rarely as bad or embarrassing as you think they are. When you start to overthink something or talk badly about yourself, imagine your brain as a TV and you control the channels. If you sense yourself dwelling on negative thoughts, remember that you can change the channel.

Be willing to grow.
Remember that you don’t have to be perfect, but you do have to be willing to learn and improve. As you work toward your goals, think about the tasks that you’ll complete to meet those goals. When you complete a task, celebrate your progress. And keep in mind that all you can do is work hard and give your best effort.

Ask for help.
If you still find yourself struggling with confidence, anxiety, a bully or something else, never be afraid to ask for help from someone you trust. If you prefer to talk to a professional, scan the QR codes here for resources and support. No matter what, know that your mental health is nothing to be ashamed of. Just like we would seek help for a broken leg, care for our mental health is no different.

Take smart risks.
Every time you face your fears, you’ll come out on the other side with so much more confidence. This doesn’t have to mean taking skydiving; it can be as simple as speaking up in class or talking to someone new. When you take a risk, congratulate yourself and be proud of your victory.

Reflect on what you’ve learned.
It’s easy to lose sight of how much we’ve grown. Document your experiences in a journal or blog and revisit it often. You’ll be amazed at what you’ve learned and how you’ve grown over time.

Above all, building your confidence is all about celebrating what makes you amazing. The world is interesting because of our diversity! If you are kind to yourself and others, you’ll have no trouble showing the world how awesome you are.

Visit LearnMoreIndiana.org for more information on your personality type and how it connects to your learning and future career!
Finding the Perfect Fit
Did you know the average American spends about $90,000 hours at work over his or her lifetime? That’s a lot of hours, so you want to be sure you find a career you enjoy. Start thinking about your personality, hobbies and interests. Are you introverted or extraverted? What extracurricular activities do you enjoy? What’s your favorite class? When you stop and think about what makes you happy, you can better think about finding the career that fits you perfectly.

Comparing Careers
Do any of these careers or career clusters spark your interest? Do some more research about them - and so many more - by visiting IndianaCareerReady.com/IndemandJobs.

Consider the questions below as you do research.
1. How many hours can I expect to work in this career starting off?
2. How much can I expect to make in this career starting off?
3. What specific skills do I need for this career?
4. What can I do with these skills now?
5. What is the growth potential for this career?
6. What is the growth potential for this career?
7. What does a typical day for this career look like?
8. Why am I interested in this career?

Leslie, 11th Grade
Leslie is interested in a career in construction. She likes staying active and hands-on learning, so she knows a regular office job isn’t for her. If you’re struggling to figure out your career path, consider what kind of work environment you want (your work values) along with your interests. This will give you a better idea of what you want for your future. Log into IndianaCareerExplorer.com to take a Career Interests Assessment and a Work Values Inventory to learn more about yourself.

More than two-thirds of all jobs in today’s knowledge economy require education and training after high school. Technology – and our world – is changing quickly. It’s possible that in the future you will have a job that doesn’t exist yet. How do we prepare for the jobs of tomorrow when we don’t know what they will look like? We start by recognizing that learning is a lifelong process. Learning doesn’t - and shouldn’t - stop after high school or college, and it’s likely that you will need to continue your education to develop the skills that are needed for your ever-changing economy. Lifelong learning leads to lifelong employment and a more interesting, fulfilling life.

Lifelong Learning
In your history classes, you may have learned about the different stages of America’s economy – from our founding focus on agriculture to the Industrial Revolution and beyond. Today, we live in a knowledge economy, where technology allows us to exchange information and ideas like never before.

Lifelong learning can take many forms. Whether it’s enrolling in coding bootcamp, taking advantage of a training program offered by your future employer, or building on your associate degree to earn a bachelor’s, there are lots of ways that you can demonstrate you’re a lifelong learner.

Learning doesn’t have to be limited to what you can add to your resume, though. There are many informal opportunities that can help you sharpen your skills and grow personally and professionally. Here are some examples:

- Listening to a podcast or watching a documentary about a topic that interests you.
- Watching YouTube tutorials to learn a specific and useful skill.
- Interviewing a person who works in a field that interests you.
- Joining a book club or online discussion board.
- Volunteering for a nonprofit organization that focuses on an issue you care about.
- Researching the culture and customs of a place you’d love to travel to someday.

Scholar Success Tip
Consider keeping a journal that tracks the most interesting and insightful things you learn each day. You can record the facts as you go about your day, or you can reflect each night as you update your entry. You’ll be amazed by how much writing things down helps you remember and gives you a sense of pride in your progress!

SCHOLAR SUCCESS TIP
Scan the QR code to take a short personality test and find some careers that might be a good fit.

Lifelong Learning
In our rapidly changing world, lifelong learning is necessary for us to grow and develop. The key is to make the time and effort and never give up. Every day presents a new opportunity to learn something new!
In addition to education beyond high school, it’s also important to get WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE. Workplace experience is a great way to learn skills like responsibility, time management, and how to act in a professional environment. These are called EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS, OR SOFT SKILLS, and they’re what future employers will be looking for in a successful employee. Employability skills fall into four main categories: MINDSETS, LEARNING STRATEGIES, WORK ETHIC AND SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS.

You can start to build workplace experience now by volunteering for a non-profit organization or tutoring other students—ANY ACTIVITY THAT HELPS YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOW THAT YOU CAN BE COUNTED ON. Workplace experience not only looks great on a resume, but it helps you narrow down a career path. Take a look at some of the most common ways to get workplace experience and make a plan to get involved.

Informational Interview:
An opportunity to sit down with a professional and ask them questions. You can ask about their educational path, what their job is like, what they like (and don’t like) about it, what advice they have for you and more. The idea is to gather information to help you decide if the career is a good fit for you.

Internship:
Experience working for a company in an official way. Internships usually last a set amount of time—like a summer or a semester—and some even pay you. Internships are a great way to have an extended opportunity to try out a career path.

Job Shadowing:
Following a professional for a day—or part of a day—to see what they do. You can make the most of job shadowing by asking questions, like you would during an informational interview, during your visit. If there’s not a good time to ask questions follow up with your host afterwards. They’ll be happy to help out!

Part-Time Job:
Your experience is valuable, even if it’s not in a field you want to be in after high school. You’ll develop employability skills that you can use in any career. Always give 100% at your job—you will be able to use your employers as references on your resume later.

Dylan, 9th Grade
Dylan is still deciding what career path he’s interested in. But, he knows it’ll have something to do with math—one of his favorite subjects. He’s already getting career experiences by job shadowing someone who works for the Indianapolis Power & Light Company. Would you like to job shadow someone? Talk to your family or school counselor to get help connecting with someone in a career you’re interested in.

Learn More Indiana: Take the Next Step
Explore this magazine, and review the list below to learn about ways you can help your child prepare for college and career success.

- Get involved in your student’s classes. Encourage them to take academically challenging courses and explain how they will be useful in the future.
- Read more about the Graduation Pathways requirement for Indiana students on page 6 to find out what your child will need to do to graduate.
- Have conversations with your student about the subjects they study, the hobbies they enjoy and how they can translate them to college and career.
- Make teachers, counselors and administrators partners in helping your student succeed.
- Help your child build good study skills and do everything you can to encourage reading.
- Consider building college visits into family vacations. If you’re unable to visit in person, you can take virtual tours online. For a list, visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/college/choosing-a-college.
- Encourage your child to get involved in extracurricular activities that can build employability, or soft, skills, and potentially help them earn a scholarship.
- Estimate the cost of college. CollegeScoreCard.ed.gov can help.
- 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.

How can I help my child prepare and pay for college and his or her future career?

Parents Corner

Dear Indiana Parents,

Learn More isn’t just for kids. There are important steps you, too, can take to help your child stay on track. Explore this magazine, and review the list below to learn about ways you can help your child prepare for college and career success.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer McCormick
State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education

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 non-credit, 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.

Eric Holcomb
Governor, State of Indiana

Jennifer McCormick
State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education

Teresa Lubbers
Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education