



# **SCHOLAR SUCCESS GUIDE GRADE 11**

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

**FREE TRAINING FOR**

## **SCHOLAR PARENTS.**

**YOU WANT THE BEST** for your child, and you understand that completing education beyond high school will give him or her 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 dream big, afford college and achieve their goals.

### **WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK SO YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD.**

Your Next Step is here to support Hoosiers like you. Whether you need help finding a job, learning new skills, furthering your education or securing emergency aid to get back on your feet, Your Next Step starts here. Visit **YourNextStepIN.org** to connect to:

- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Engage with resources to find a new job, explore new careers and get advice from career coaches ready to help you navigate your next step.
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** Learn about opportunities to complete your high school diploma or earn a short-term certificate or college degree, 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; and Transportation and Logistics. To learn more about qualifying programs, visit **NextLevelJobs.org** today.
- **OTHER SUPPORT:** Connect to resources to assist you and your family with unemployment insurance, healthcare access, local childcare, food assistance, housing support and more.

Whether Hoosiers are ready to start a new career, looking to advance their education or skills, or are seeking basic financial help and support, Indiana has their back so they can move forward. Connect to resources at **YourNextStepIN.org**.

# 11 **PARENTS of Scholars**

*As a 21st Century Scholar, your child must successfully complete the Scholar Success Program.*

### ***What is the Scholar Success Program?***

The Scholar Success Program helps prepare your child for college and career success while staying on track to earn and maintain their 21st Century Scholarship by using ScholarTrack. The 21st Century Scholarship helps pay tuition, or the cost of attending classes, at Indiana colleges and universities.

### ***What is ScholarTrack?***

ScholarTrack is a tool that Scholars use to track their completion of the Scholar Success Program. In high school, each grade has different required program activities that need to be completed by June 30 of that school year. Learn more about the Scholar Success Program and create a ScholarTrack account with your child using the QR code below!

#### **Visit ScholarTrack**



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

### ***How can I help my Scholar?***

Read through this guide with your Scholar and make a plan together for finishing this year's activities.

# 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 in high school and in college, which includes activities each year to help you stay on track for college and career success. The chart below shows the 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.
- ✓ All grade-level activities must be completed by June 30 following the end of the school year.

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 <sup>1</sup>	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience <sup>2</sup>	Watch "Estimate Your College Costs"
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)	Search for Scholarships <sup>3</sup>
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.

# 11

## GRADE 11 CHECKLIST

### What steps must you take now to achieve your goals?

In 11th grade, your Scholar Success Program requirements will keep you on the right track as you visit a college campus, take a college entrance exam and search for scholarships to supplement your 21st Century Scholarship.

In the following few pages, we'll walk you through each step and direct you to resources to help you check them off your list and continue on your way to success!



### Visit a College Campus

Visiting college campuses is the best way to get a feel for what schools are really like and to find out if they would be a good fit for you.



### Take a College Entrance Exam

A college entrance exam is a standardized test that assesses college readiness.



### Search for Scholarships

A scholarship is a kind of grant that supports funding your education and does not have to be paid back. Scholarships you earn can help cover expenses not covered by your 21st Century Scholarship.

# STAY ON TRACK WITH SCHOLARTRACK

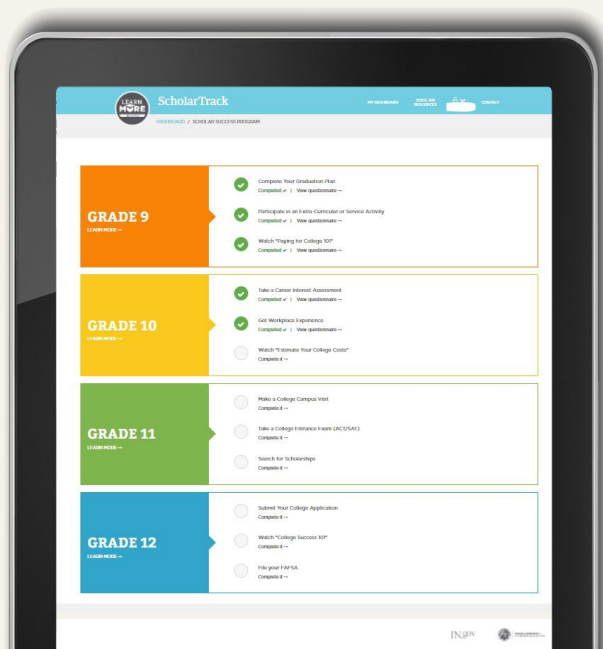
ScholarTrack is an online tool that will guide you through the Scholar Success Program. You'll be able to manage your progress throughout high school and college and find resources to help you complete the requirements.

## *Keep your contact information updated*

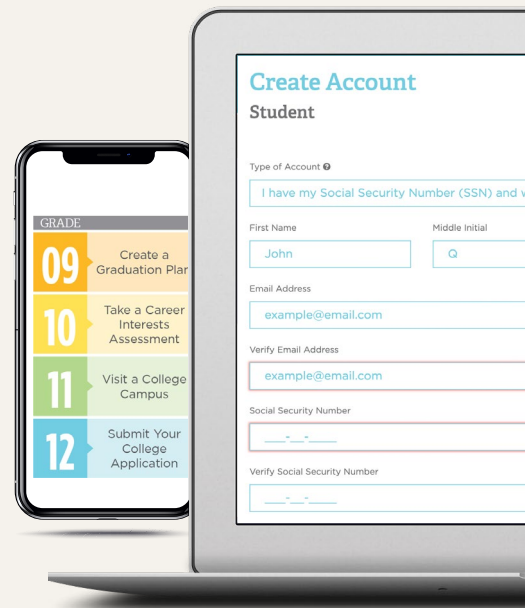
Each year, you will receive information and resources to help you stay on track. If your contact information changes or you change schools, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

## *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, friend's house or talk to a parent or teacher/counselor for help finding internet access. ScholarTrack is also available on your smartphone.



# GET STARTED ON SCHOLARTRACK



**ScholarTrack.IN.gov**

## GET STARTED

Go to **ScholarTrack.IN.gov**. Register for 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.

## CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Students can create a full or limited account. Full accounts, which require a 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 a SSN at any time.

## START TRACKING

From the dashboard, select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab and complete the required Scholar Success Program activities in each grade of high school.

# 11 Visit a College Campus

*College visits give you the opportunity to tour campuses and get a feeling of what campus is really like!*

## *Why are campus visits important?*

Exploring a college through its website, brochures or videos only gives you a partial picture of what each school is like. However, visiting a school, touring the campus and exploring all the resources available to you as a student will give you a better idea of whether or not a school is a good fit for you.

Your school counselor can help you develop your graduation plan with input from your parents or guardians. Update your plan throughout high school with your courses, grades and any changes in your planned career path.

### *Tips for making the most out of your visit*

- 1. Ask questions!** Whether you think of questions before or during your visit, make sure to ask to learn more about the school you're visiting.
- 2. Talk to individuals on campus.** This could include faculty members, academic advisors, admissions staff and current students.
- 3. Explore what is available for 21st Century Scholars.** visit **Scholars.IN.gov/students/college** to learn more, and make sure to ask your campus tour guide!
- 4. Take notes** on your visit and reach out to the institution with any follow-up questions.

## *Get started*

- 1. LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab.
- 2. CLICK** on "Visit a College Campus" and preview the questions you'll need to answer about your activity.
- 3. EXPLORE** different schools and universities you might be interested in visiting by checking out **LearnMoreIndiana.org/Indiana-college-map**.
- 4. CREATE** a list of schools you want to visit, then contact the school's admission office or visit their website to schedule a tour. Don't forget, touring different schools will help you find the best fit for you!
- 5. RETURN** to your ScholarTrack account and follow steps 1 and 2 to submit your answers after your campus visit.

## **Complete the requirement**



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

## *Did you know?*

If you can't do an in-person tour of a campus you're interested in, many schools offer a virtual tour, and it'll satisfy this requirement. Find a list of virtual tours at Indiana college and universities at **LearnMoreIndiana.org/choosing-a-college**.

# 11 Take an Entrance Exam

*Entrance exams are an admissions requirement at many post-secondary schools.*

*The most common exams are the SAT and the ACT.*

- The **SAT exam focuses** on reading and math (multiple choice questions) and has optional writing and subject tests.
- The **ACT focuses** on English, math, reading and science.

Before you sign up for either exam, make sure you choose the one that best fits your needs. Some programs and schools require or prefer you to take a particular test. Check with your preferred schools' admission websites to see which test you need.

**Note:** If you're planning on attending a school that doesn't require an entrance exam, you still need to take one to satisfy your 21st Century Scholars requirement.

## *How can I prepare for the exam?*

**Like any test, getting familiar with the content and studying goes a long way!**

**ASK** your teachers, counselors or mentor if your school or community offers .

**VISIT** your local library to find ACT or SAT prep materials and practice books.

**CHECK OUT** test prep websites for free practice tests, test day tips and other resources to help you prepare and improve your skills. Visit [ACTStudent.org](http://ACTStudent.org) or [CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org).

**NOTE:** Both the ACT and SAT have a registration fee, but as a 21st Century Scholar, you may qualify for a waiver. Before signing up, talk to your counselor.

## *Getting Started*

1. **LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab.
2. **CLICK** on "Take a College Entrance Exam" and preview the questions you'll need to answer about your activity.
3. **REGISTER** to take the ACT or SAT during the spring semester of your junior year with the links below:  
**ACT - [ACTStudent.org/register/](http://ACTStudent.org/register/) SAT - [CollegeReadiness.CollegeBoard.org/SAT](http://CollegeReadiness.CollegeBoard.org/SAT)**
4. **PREPARE** for your entrance exam. For help with that, check out "How can I prepare for the exam?" on the previous page.
5. **TAKE** your entrance exam. When you register for your exam, you'll be given instructions on where to go to take the exam, when to arrive and what to bring with you. Follow these instructions to make test day as smooth as possible.
6. **RETURN** to your ScholarTrack account and follow steps 1 and 2 to submit your answers to complete your requirement.

**Complete the requirement**



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

# 11 Search for Scholarships

*Scholarships are “free money” that can help pay for additional college expenses.*

## *Why do I need to look for scholarships?*

Remember that your 21st Century Scholarship can cover up to full tuition and mandatory fees, but even if you receive full tuition, this award does not cover expenses such as room and board, books and supplies. Unlike loans, scholarships do not have to be paid back and can help cover other costs not covered by your 21st Century Scholarship.

## *What type of scholarships are available?*

As you search for scholarships, remember there are two basic types of scholarships, merit and need-based.

- 1. START** by talking with your school counselor. They will often have a list of local and national scholarships that you can start your search with.
- 2. EXPLORE** local scholarship opportunities. Check with local civic groups and community foundations to see what scholarships are available.
- 3. CHECK OUT** the financial aid websites of schools and universities you are interested in for scholarship opportunities. If you already know of a program or major you're interested in, check that department's page for potential scholarships.
- 4. SEARCH** online scholarship platforms to find more possibilities. Below is a short list of sites to explore:

**LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost/**

**FastWeb.com**

**Scholarships.com**

**CollegeBoard.org**

**ScholarshipInformer.com**

**StudentAid.gov**

## *Get started*

- 1. LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and select “Scholar Success Program” under the “State Aid Resources” tab.
- 2. CLICK** “Search for Scholarships” and preview the questions you’ll need to answer about your activity.
- 3. SEARCH** for scholarships that would help pay for additional education costs.
- 4. RETURN** to your ScholarTrack account and follow steps 1 and 2 to submit your answers to complete your requirement.

## **Complete the requirement**



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>



# RESOURCES

## School Counselors

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

## Contact Scholars.IN.gov

**Website:** [Scholars.IN.gov/students/high-school/#11th-grade](https://scholars.in.gov/students/high-school/#11th-grade).

**Phone:** 888-528-4719

**Email:** [Scholars@che.IN.gov](mailto:Scholars@che.IN.gov)

**Regional Outreach Coordinators:**  
[Scholars.IN.gov/contact-us](https://scholars.in.gov/contact-us)

## Learn More Indiana

Learn More Indiana has answers to your questions about planning, preparing and paying for college completion and career success. Visit **[LearnMoreIndiana.org](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org)** to get started.

## Social Media

Follow us on social media for updates and post-high school education and career resources.



**[Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN](https://Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN)**



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



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



**[@learnmoreindiana](https://www.tiktok.com/@learnmoreindiana)**



**[YouTube.com/LearnMoreIN](https://YouTube.com/LearnMoreIN)**

# FAQS

## How do I maintain the Scholar Pledge and keep my scholarship?

To maintain eligibility for your scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the Scholar Success Program in high school and in college, which includes activities each year to help you stay on track for college and career success. High school activities should be completed by June 30 of your senior year.
- 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 full time 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.

## What should I do if I change schools or my contact information changes?

It's important that you receive notifications and updates from the 21st Century Scholars program to make sure you're on track to complete the requirements in high school and in college. Update your information in your ScholarTrack account at **[ScholarTrack.IN.gov](https://ScholarTrack.IN.gov)**.

## Do I have to file the FAFSA every year in high school?

No. You must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during your senior or last year of high school and each year (minus your last year) that you are enrolled in college.

## If I graduate early, can I still use the 21st Century Scholarship?

Yes. If you plan to graduate following your junior year, you need to notify your school counselor so they can inform the 21st Century Scholars program. You should complete all 12 high school Scholar Success Program activities, including filing the FAFSA by April 15 of your junior year. If you plan to graduate early, learn about the Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship at **[LearnMoreIndiana.org/statefinancialaid](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org/statefinancialaid)**.

## Can I use my scholarship to pay for dual-credit classes while in high school?

No. The scholarship is only available once you have graduated high school.

## If my GPA falls below 2.5 for a semester, will I lose the scholarship?

You are still eligible for your scholarship as long as your cumulative GPA is at least 2.5 on a 4 point scale at the time of graduation. A cumulative GPA is the average of all your grades during all your semesters of high school.

## Can I receive the scholarship if I complete a high school equivalency exam (like a GED or TASC) or complete home school?

No. You must graduate with at least a Core 40 diploma from an eligible high school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.

## What happens if I don't complete the Scholar Success Program on time?

You must verify you've completed the three grade-specific activities via ScholarTrack by June 30 of each academic year. Your scholarship cannot be awarded until all activities are complete.

## Am I still eligible for my scholarship if I take a gap year?

Yes, but you must be enrolled in a post-secondary education institution no later than a year after you graduate high school.





**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 in high school and in college that will help 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.**

**JULY/2022**



**INDIANA COMMISSION** for  
HIGHER EDUCATION