

# SCHOLAR SUCCESS GUIDE GRADE 09

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

FREE RESOURCES 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](http://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](http://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](http://YourNextStepIn.org).

# 09 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.

# 09

## GRADE 9 CHECKLIST

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

In 9th grade, your Scholar Success Program requirements will put you on the right track as you create a high school graduation plan, participate in an extracurricular or service activity and watch "Paying for College 101."

On the next few pages, we'll walk you through each of the steps and direct you to resources to help you check them off your list and continue on your way to success!



### Create Your Graduation Plan

Based on your career plans and the type of Core 40 diploma you plan to pursue, map out a four-year high school plan with your school counselor.



### Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity

Choose one or two activities to focus on during high school. These experiences prepare you for college, help you explore your career interests and introduce you to new people.



### Watch the "Paying For College 101" Video

Find out what costs are involved in going to college and how to save and manage your money. Your 21st Century Scholarship may cover up to four years of tuition, but you must plan for additional expenses.

# STAY ON TRACK WITH SCHOLARTRACK

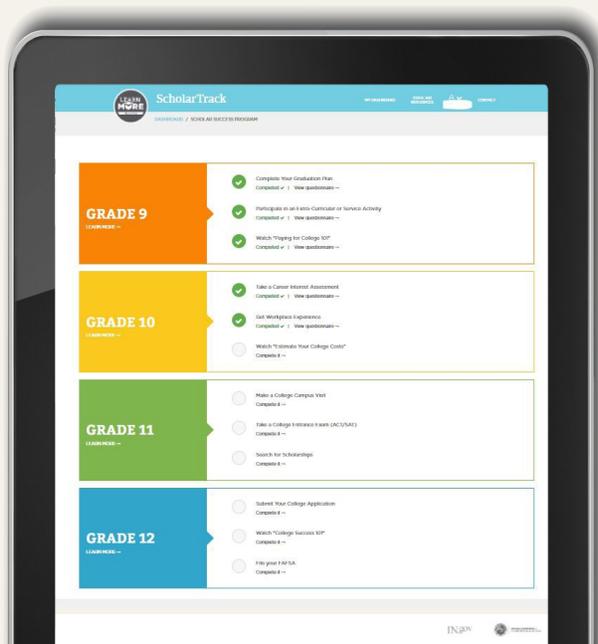
ScholarTrack is an online tool that will guide you through the Scholar Success Program. You'll be able to manage your progress throughout high school and college and find resources to help you complete the requirements.

## *Keep your contact information updated*

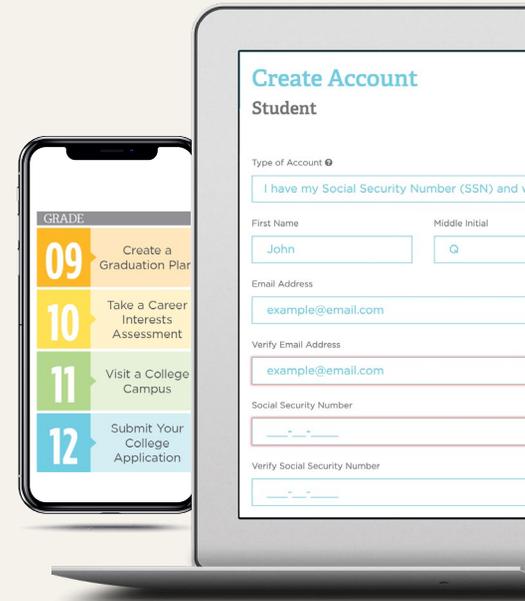
Each year, you will receive information and resources to help you stay on track. If your contact information changes or you change schools, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

## *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

1 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

2 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

3 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.

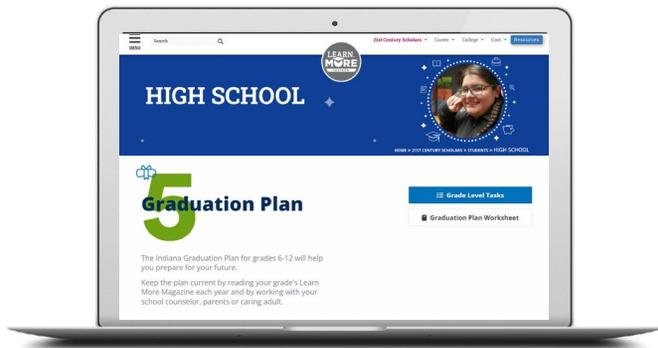
# 09 Create Your Graduation Plan

*In 9th grade, create a high school graduation plan that keeps you on track to earn a Core 40 diploma, complete Graduation Pathway requirements, meet college requirements and achieve your career goals.*

## What is a graduation plan?

A graduation plan helps you understand what courses, tests and related steps you need to complete in high school to achieve your higher education and career goals.

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.



*Download a printer-friendly PDF of the Graduation Plan*



[Scholars.IN.gov/students/high-school/#9th-grade](https://scholars.in.gov/students/high-school/#9th-grade)

## Get started

The easiest way for you to keep your graduation plan up to date is by using Indiana Career Explorer, a free tool provided by the State of Indiana to help you with college and career planning.

- 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 the “Graduation Plan” box to create your graduation plan and follow the steps to access the Indiana Career Explorer website.
- 3. MAKE** an account by clicking “Create an Account” and setting up a profile with a username and password.
- 4. FIND** the “My Portfolio Items” tab on the left side of the screen, and then click “My Indiana Graduation Plan.”
- 5. CREATE** your graduation plan. Fill out as much as you can and then log back in whenever you have updates.

**Complete the requirement**



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

# 09 Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity

*Getting involved in these activities during high school is a great way to prepare for college, explore your interests and make friends.*

## *What are extracurricular and service activities, and why are they important?*

Schools offer activities outside of regular schoolwork, such as band, chorus, athletics, theater, student newspaper, school yearbook, student council and a variety of clubs.

The activity you choose does not have to be school-sponsored. You can also get involved in a variety of service activities — commonly known as “volunteering” or “community service” — through your place of worship, local youth organizations or community centers.

Students involved in extracurricular and service activities learn how to prioritize and manage their time and demonstrate to others that they are capable and active members of the community, which will help them stand out on college applications.

## *Choosing an activity*

- Consider your interests and skills, as well as causes that are important to you.
- Explore activities that match with careers you're thinking about.
- Find out what your participation would require. How much time outside of school will it take? Will you need transportation? Discuss the details with your parents or guardians.
- If you aren't sure how to get involved in activities, talk to your school counselor, a teacher or a family member.
- Don't get over-involved. Schoolwork should remain your number one priority. Pick just one or two activities.

## *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 “Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity” and preview the questions you'll need to answer about your activity.

## Complete the requirement



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

## *Did you know?*

If you're unable to complete an extracurricular or service activity in person, you can complete this requirement virtually. **Visit [Scholars.IN.gov/students/high-school/#9th-grade](https://scholars.in.gov/students/high-school/#9th-grade)** for ideas and for more information.

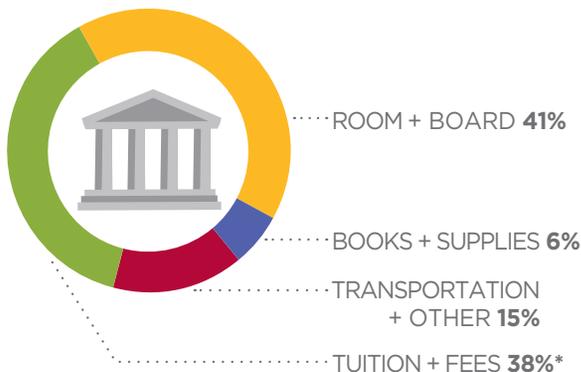
# 09 Watch the “Paying for College 101” Video

“Paying for College 101” will help you and your family understand what you need to know about your 21st Century Scholarship and other financial aid options to help pay for college.

## What college expenses do I need to plan for?

- **Tuition:** The cost of instruction at the institution per semester.
- **Room and Board:** Rent for dorm rooms, an apartment, or a house with roommates.
- **Transportation:** Gas for car, bus pass, bicycle, etc.
- **Books and supplies:** Cost and fees for books and class materials.

YOUR 21st CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP WILL ONLY COVER TUITION AND REQUIRED FEES, SO YOU SHOULD PLAN TO SAVE FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS.



## Get started

1. **LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and click “Watch ‘Paying for College 101.’”

## Complete the requirement



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

## Other helpful activities

**RESEARCH.** Review additional resources and tools at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost](https://learnmoreindiana.org/cost).

**TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.** Make sure you and your family understand the requirements for earning and keeping your 21st Century Scholarship and what your scholarship does and does not cover.

**SAVE.** Talk about how you and your family plan to save money for college and budget accordingly. Even a small contribution each month will make a difference. Consider opening a tax-free Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan, at [CollegeChoiceDirect.com](https://collegechoicedirect.com).

**DO THE MATH.** To calculate your college expenses, avoid student loan debt and learn more about financial resources, visit [Collegescorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov). Make sure the college you’re looking at is an eligible college or university by checking this list: [Scholars.IN.gov/eligible-colleges](https://scholars.in.gov/eligible-colleges).

# 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/#9th-grade](https://scholars.in.gov/students/high-school/#9th-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://www.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**