



**MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

Ensuring a bright future for every child

# Mississippi Career Exploration and Planning Expectations

Each student should have an individualized success plan to help them make career and college decisions, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members.

BY THE END OF THE 6TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>take an interest assessment <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/Assessments/self-assessments.aspx">https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/Assessments/self-assessments.aspx</a></li> <li>explore careers related to students' strengths, skills, and talents <a href="https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/lesson-plans/jobs/index.shtml">https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/lesson-plans/jobs/index.shtml</a></li> <li>develop an awareness of career clusters and jobs relating to those career clusters <a href="https://www.knowitall.org/subject/career-education">https://www.knowitall.org/subject/career-education</a></li> <li>identify employability and social skills i.e. work-readiness skills important to career success and apply basic technological skills relating to a variety of careers <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/ExploreCareers/what-are-you-good-at.aspx">https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/ExploreCareers/what-are-you-good-at.aspx</a></li> <li>create an action plan with academic and personal goals <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture_academic_portfolio.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture_academic_portfolio.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>why people need to work</li> <li>what college is, why people go, and the different types (2 year vs. 4 year)</li> <li>the relationship between personal qualities, education, training, and the world of work</li> </ul>

BY THE END OF THE 7TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create an Individual Success Plan (ISP)</li> <li>develop an awareness of careers and companies based in MS <a href="http://riseupms.com/planning/job-hunter/">http://riseupms.com/planning/job-hunter/</a></li> <li>revisit interests and continue to explore careers related to talents and skills <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/Assessments/self-assessments.aspx">https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/Assessments/self-assessments.aspx</a></li> <li>review graduation requirements</li> <li>complete the student planning tool</li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the importance of academic success and consequences of falling behind</li> <li>what an Individual Success Plan (ISP) is and how to create a 5 year academic plan</li> </ul>

BY THE END OF THE 8TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete a career cluster survey <a href="https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/StudentInterestSurvey-English.pdf">https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/StudentInterestSurvey-English.pdf</a></li> <li>attend a career exploration day/career fair</li> <li>Check with your local high school and/or community college</li> <li>be exposed to finance literacy unit in a course or workshop <a href="http://financeintheclassroom.org/passport/eighth/math.shtml">http://financeintheclassroom.org/passport/eighth/math.shtml</a></li> <li>review graduation requirements and high school opportunities as well as how academic and extracurricular choices vary from middle school <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/swf/college-ed/middle-school-educator-guide-1/files/inc/861984397.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/swf/college-ed/middle-school-educator-guide-1/files/inc/861984397.pdf</a></li> <li>review/revise ISP</li> <li>complete the student planning tool</li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the concept of career clusters for further exploration</li> <li>possible career clusters of interest</li> <li>the relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals</li> </ul>

BY THE END OF THE 9TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>revisit career cluster interest survey <a href="https://www.bls.gov/k12/content/students/careers/career-exploration.htm">https://www.bls.gov/k12/content/students/careers/career-exploration.htm</a></li> <li>develop self-awareness of skills, work values, and interests <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/explore-careers.aspx">https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/explore-careers.aspx</a></li> <li>explore various careers <a href="https://www.mynextmove.org/">https://www.mynextmove.org/</a></li> <li>review 9th grade "College Planning Guide" <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-9th-10th-Graders.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-9th-10th-Graders.pdf</a></li> <li>meet with school counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary (PS) career plans</li> <li>become aware of federal and state financial aid opportunities <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture_Financial_Aid_checklist.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture_Financial_Aid_checklist.pdf</a></li> <li>become aware of institutional and private scholarship opportunities <a href="https://get2college.org/student-tools/scholarships/">https://get2college.org/student-tools/scholarships/</a></li> <li>review/revise ISP</li> <li>complete the student planning tool</li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one or two career clusters for further exploration and development</li> <li>the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, grades, community service, and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans</li> <li>the general cost ranges of various PS options</li> </ul>

BY THE END OF THE 10TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review/revise/redo "Career Exploration" activities on Career One Stop, Bureau Labor Statistics, My Next Move, and careertech.org</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review "College Planning" checklist for 10th grade <a href="http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf">http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest ("Match and Fit") using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Board College List Handout <a href="http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf">http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf</a></li> <li>ACT Profile <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> <li>Get2College Planning Guide <a href="http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf">http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf</a></li> <li>College Scorecard <a href="https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/">https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet with school counselor to review progress toward high school graduation and academic/career goals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review criteria for state financial aid <a href="http://riseupms.com/state-aid/">http://riseupms.com/state-aid/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review types of federal financial aid <a href="https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/learn/types.jsp">https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/learn/types.jsp</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>emphasize institutional and private scholarship opportunities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>obtain information regarding assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACT <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> <li>SAT <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started</a></li> <li>PSAT <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/educator-resource-center/collegeed-college-planning-program">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/educator-resource-center/collegeed-college-planning-program</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set academic and college/career goals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify 2-3 adults to support him/her through the college and career selection process</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review/revise ISP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete the student planning tool</li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations of interest</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>different types of PS credentials and institutions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>general timing of college entrance exams and applications</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the benefit of early college credit opportunities and PS access and completions</li> </ul>

BY THE END OF THE 11TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create an ACT profile account <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a College Board Big Future account <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review "College Planning Checklist" for 11th grade <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-Calendar-Juniors.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-Calendar-Juniors.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest (Match an Fit) using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Board College List Handout <a href="http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf">http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf</a></li> <li>ACT Profile <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> <li>Get2College Planning Guide <a href="http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf">http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf</a></li> <li>College Scorecard <a href="https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/">https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>schedule campus visits-virtual or in-person <a href="https://www.campustours.com/">https://www.campustours.com/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend college fairs <a href="http://www.get2college.org">www.get2college.org</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a resume and a personal statement <a href="http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/resumes-cover-letters-high-30847.html?tab=4">http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/resumes-cover-letters-high-30847.html?tab=4</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participate in a mock job interview <a href="https://everydayinterviewtips.com/15-possible-questions-for-high-school-student-job-interviews/">https://everydayinterviewtips.com/15-possible-questions-for-high-school-student-job-interviews/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify an internship opportunity related to career pathway <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/how-to-find-an-internship-youll-value">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/how-to-find-an-internship-youll-value</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet with school counselor to review progress towards high school graduation and academic/career goals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review criteria for state financial aid <a href="http://riseupms.com/state-aid/">http://riseupms.com/state-aid/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review types of federal financial aid <a href="https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/learn/types.jsp">https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/learn/types.jsp</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>emphasize institutional and private scholarship opportunities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss ACT, PSAT, SAT, and AP test administration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set academic and college/career goals</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>register for NCAA (if applicable) <a href="https://web3.nca.org/ecwr3/">https://web3.nca.org/ecwr3/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review/ revise ISP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete the student planning tool</li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>application deadlines, test timing, cost, and prep for industry based certifications</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>career attributes related to career interests</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS career pathway</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-5 match schools, one safety, and one reach school for PS career pathway</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options</li> </ul>

BY 12/31 OF THE 12TH GRADE
<b>A student should be supported to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create an ACT profile account <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a College Board Big Future account <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review "College Planning Checklist" for 12th grade <a href="https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-Calendar-Seniors.pdf">https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-Calendar-Seniors.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest ("Match and Fit") using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Board College List Handout <a href="http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf">http://media.collegeboard.com/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf</a></li> <li>ACT Profile <a href="https://www.actprofile.org/login">https://www.actprofile.org/login</a></li> <li>Get2College Planning Guide <a href="http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf">http://get2college.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/General-Booklet-2016-17-2.pdf</a></li> <li>College Scorecard <a href="https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/">https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend college fairs <a href="http://www.get2college.org">www.get2college.org</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>schedule campus visits-virtual or in-person <a href="https://www.campustours.com/">https://www.campustours.com/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet with school counselor and ensure 3 or more admission applications to PS institutions are complete</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend a FAFSA completion workshop <a href="http://www.get2college.org">www.get2college.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>By the end of the 12th grade:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>address any remedial needs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>obtain an internship opportunity relating to career pathway <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/how-to-find-an-internship-youll-value">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/how-to-find-an-internship-youll-value</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>receive industry-based certification <a href="https://www.nccer.org/">https://www.nccer.org/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend a financial aid award letter workshop <a href="http://www.get2college.org">www.get2college.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>A student should know:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how career pathway and courses experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>estimated cost of each PS option</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry level career salary and anticipated debt</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan</li> </ul>