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## [Counselortalk] CHE/21st Century Scholars December Communication

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## SCHOOL AND PARTNER COMMUNICATION December 2020

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### 21st Century Scholars Enrollment Materials

Updated enrollment materials in *English, Arabic, Burmese, Chin, French, Kinyarwanda, Kiswahili, Korean, and Spanish* for 21st Century Scholars are available on the [website](#).

### 21st Century Scholars Award Clarification

For students to be eligible to receive any scholarship funding from 21st Century Scholars, they must have an **approved** application and complete all eligibility requirements during high school. This includes both the full scholarship and the one-time award of \$2,500. The \$2,500 award is **only** for students who were **enrolled** and **approved** for the 21st Century Scholarship, but at the time of claiming the award (entering college/in college), they no longer met financial eligibility as determined by the [financial means test guidelines](#).

If a student never enrolled in 21st Century Scholars or was removed from the program by the Indiana Department of Revenue income verification process, he or she will not be eligible for the

award nor considered a 21st Century Scholar. Students may be eligible for other aid, such as the Frank O'Bannon Grant, but if they are not enrolled in 21st Century Scholars, they will **not** receive the 21st Century Scholarship in any form.

Being listed in ScholarTrack or creating a ScholarTrack account **does not** equate to 21st Century Scholars enrollment. However, ScholarTrack is the gateway to all other state aid programs and resources, including the Scholar Success Program activities. ScholarTrack is the state's financial aid portal for all Indiana students, not just 21st Century Scholars.

For questions, please reach out to your [CHE Outreach Coordinator](#).

### **Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship**

The 2021-2022 application for the [Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship](#) opened in ScholarTrack on **October 1, 2020** and will close on **January 31, 2021**. Following the deadline, the Commission will review all applications and notify all applicants of their scholarship status via email by **March 19, 2021**.

Please direct any questions or inquiries to [NextTeacher@che.in.gov](mailto:NextTeacher@che.in.gov).

### **Learn More Indiana Magazines and Scholarship Opportunity**

2020-21 Learn More Indiana magazines are available in both English and Spanish online at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials/#magazines](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials/#magazines). Juniors and seniors are encouraged to enter the **NEXT Indiana** magazine student scholarship contest for a chance to win \$1500. To enter, students simply need to fill out [the entry form here](#).

### **Cash for College**

December kicked off Learn More Indiana's annual Cash for College campaign. Resources to help students learn how to make college affordable, including a FAFSA event manual, school announcements, classroom materials and more are available at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials/#cash-for-college](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials/#cash-for-college). Follow Learn More Indiana on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for **#FinancialAidFridays** content from now through the FAFSA deadline on April 15, 2021.

### **2021-2022 FAFSA**

The 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened on **Thursday, October 1**. To secure state aid eligibility for the 2021-2022 academic year, students must submit the FAFSA by the state deadline of **April 15, 2021**. The form is accessible by visiting [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) or using the myStudentAid Mobile App. High school seniors are encouraged to create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) prior to beginning the FAFSA. The FSA ID serves as a legal, digital signature, and both the student and at least one parent must have one. The FSA ID can be created on the Federal Student Aid [website](#).

### **Spring/Summer 2021 School & Community Partnership Grants**

The goal of the [School & Community Partnership Grant](#) is to bring together K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, employers, and community organizations to plan and implement

supportive efforts for learners of all ages in completing education and training beyond high school.

The grant is designed to encourage collaborations focused on the following college and career readiness priorities:

- 21st Century Scholars – Scholar Success Program (SSP) completion and maintaining academic eligibility
- Family engagement programming (21st Century Scholar enrollment, Next Level Jobs promotion)
- Pre-College/Postsecondary professional development (focused on Indiana's **college achievement gap**)

#### *Grant Timeline*

December 21, 2020 – Grant application window opens

February 5, 2021 – Grant application deadline

February 19, 2021 – Grant award notification

July 19, 2021 – Final grant report and invoice due

#### *Who is Eligible to Apply?*

Capacity building and collaboration are expected for this grant opportunity. Applications **must** demonstrate a collaboration with at least one or more school, postsecondary institution, employer, or community-based organization in the area being served.

#### *What Funding is Available to Applicants?*

Approximately \$80,000 is available for this grant cycle and funding is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 for the program, event, or initiative(s) that are completed. Proposals for more than \$5,000 must directly serve students from a participating **Indiana GEAR UP cohort school**. Funds will be disbursed on a **reimbursement basis** once the proposed program has been completed. Grant reimbursement will be based on actual expenses used for the program, event, or outreach effort(s) that take place after the award notification and prior to the close of the grant window. A final report and invoice will be due on or before **July 19, 2021**.

For questions, please reach out to [grants@che.in.gov](mailto:grants@che.in.gov)

### **2020 Certificates Report**

The number of Hoosiers earning certificates has increased by 500 percent over the last decade, according to the **2020 Certificates Report** produced by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The growth coincides with the state's recent emphasis on short-term credentials to get more Hoosiers into high-demand, good paying jobs quickly – particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report shows that earning potential varies by industry sector, and Hoosiers who are strategic with their academic program and stack degrees over time are likely to see a greater return on their investment.

Individuals who earn certificates in certain high-demand sectors, such as those targeted through the

**Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant**, see the greatest increases in earnings. The median annual wage gain for those with a Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant-eligible certificate is \$6,800.

### **Resources Available Through Your Next Step**

**Your Next Step** is a one-stop shop for resources in Indiana that can help people take the next step in their career, education, and life! High school seniors are encouraged to visit the platform to learn about important education and training opportunities beyond high school.

#### Your Next Step Accounts

- Facebook: Your Next Step IN
- Instagram: @YourNextStepIN
- LinkedIn: Your Next Step Indiana

### **Questions?**

Call us at **888-528-4719**, email us at [Scholars@che.IN.gov](mailto:Scholars@che.IN.gov) or contact your **Regional Outreach Coordinator** if you have any questions.

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