

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Checklist

### **Make sure that you are on-track for graduation and your diploma type.**

- Visit your guidance counselor to learn about your credits and progress. Know your diploma type and graduation requirements- <https://www.doe.in.gov/ccr/indianas-diploma-requirements>.
- What is your goal after completing high school? Do you want to attend college? Are you interested in the military? Have you considered a technical school for job-specific training? If you are unsure of what to do after high school, take a career-interest inventory to learn how your skills and interests correspond to various careers.

### **Pass your graduation exams!**

- Beginning in 2016-17 (class of 2019), the ISTEP+ Grade 10 assessment in English/Language Arts and Mathematics will become the new graduation exam. Take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of your sophomore and junior years. Taking the exam in your junior year will also provide you with a chance to enter the competition for scholarships provided by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. }

### **Get involved in extra-curricular activities.**

- Colleges will ask what, if any, activities you have been involved in during your high school career. If you aren't active in any extra-curricular activity, now is the time to start! Ask your guidance counselor about different clubs and organizations that you can become involved in at school. Start looking for summer jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities, etc. Involvement in extra-curricular activities not only engages you with your community, but shows time-management skills, self-discipline skills, citizenship skills, etc. These are all characteristics that colleges will look for in potential students!

### **Attend local and national college & career fairs.**

- This is a great opportunity to meet with college representatives and receive information on vocational and trade schools, colleges and universities, apprenticeship programs, etc.
- Pay attention to any school announcements, flyers, and information provided by the guidance office regarding the date, time, and information about other national and/or local college and career fairs.

### **Research post-secondary schools and careers.**

- Brainstorm characteristics that are important to you (i.e. location, academic majors, public vs. private, etc.) in a post-secondary school. Research the admission requirements to colleges that you are interested in attending. Pay close attention to suggested or required high school courses that are needed for admission. Determine if there are additional specific requirements for the academic programs that interest you.

### **Enroll in challenging courses for your 11th grade year.**

- Junior year is not the time to slack off with your school work! Your junior year will be filled with many academic courses required for graduation. Colleges will look for a rigorous 11th grade schedule. Be sure that you are challenging yourself academically and taking electives that will help you succeed.