

IL Middle School PaCE Alignment with **Success Bound**



This chart demonstrates how the Success Bound middle school curriculum aligns with the IL PaCE Middle School Framework.

Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE)

At the middle school and early high school level, the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework is designed to provide students with guided exploration of postsecondary planning and options in a manner that is consistent with adolescent development. Meaningful participation in postsecondary preparation programs requires that students perceive college and/or career as possible and probable. Too often, programs are designed to serve only students who already have a college-going or career-oriented identity. The developmental work in the middle school framework is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the PaCE Framework throughout the critical high school years.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)






Success Bound

Success Bound is a curriculum for middle grade students to explore their identities and futures, expanding their outlook on postsecondary opportunities. The Success Bound curriculum includes an entire unit dedicated to college and career exploration, and skills for postsecondary readiness are woven throughout all units and grade levels. The chart below demonstrates how Success Bound lessons align with the three key domains of the Illinois PaCE Middle School Framework: Aspiration, Planning, and Self-Advocacy. Using the Success Bound curriculum in its entirety, or by choosing select lessons, is one way to meet the state [legislative mandate](#) to adopt and begin implementation of career exploration and development activities aligned to a PaCE framework for grades 6-12 by July 2, 2025.







6th Grade

Lesson	Aspiration	Planning	Self-Advocacy
Unit 0: Launch of Success Bound			
What is Success Bound?			
Pre Survey			
Student Questionnaire			
Unit 1 : My Identity and Life Vision			
Working as a Team			
My Vision Board	✓		
Goal-Setting		✓	✓
Understanding Your Beliefs and Values	✓		
Once Upon a Time		✓	✓
Adjusting to 6th Grade		✓	
Unit 2 : Keys to Academic Success			
My Learning Style		✓	
Making the Grade			✓
Understanding GPA			✓
6th grade Attendance and Grades		✓	✓
Taking Ownership for My Success		✓	✓
Asking for Help			✓








Unit 3: Keys to Life Success

Organizing My Life			
Stress and the Brain			
True Colors: Determining Your Strengths			
The Stretch Zone			
Conflict Scenarios			
Collaboration Challenge: Building a House			

Unit 4 : Postsecondary Pathways (College and Career)

Big Dreams, Big Futures			
Jobs Discussion			
Education Pathways			
Show Me the Money			
Connecting Interests with Careers			
Career Presentation			













Unit 5 : Preparing for the Next Phase

Middle School Dos and Don'ts			
Preparing for 7th grade			
My Success Bound Backpack			
My Success Team			
My Action Board			
Small Wins, Big Wins			
Post Survey			










Unit 6 : High School Application Process

Introduction to the High School Process			
Introduction to High School Research			


7th Grade

Lesson	Aspiration	Planning	Self-Advocacy
Unit 0: Launch of Success Bound			
What is Success Bound?			
Pre Survey			
Student Questionnaire			
Unit 1 : My Identity and Life Vision			
Communicating Effectively			
My Life List			
S.M.A.R.T Goals			
Know Who You Are and Where You Come From			
Who's in Your Corner?			
Navigating Middle School			
Unit 2 : Keys to Academic Success			
Understanding Motivation			
Understanding On-track			
Grades and High School			
7th grade Attendance and Grades			
Supporting Myself and My Peers			
Finding Solutions			









Unit 3: Keys to Life Success

Time Management Tools			
Positive Coping Strategies			
Knowing What Drives Me			
Boundaries and Consent			
Making Amends			
Collaboration Challenge: Surviving on the Moon			



Unit 4 : Postsecondary Pathways (College and Career)

Living Out Career Dreams			
The Path to My Career Goal			
College Discussion			
Lifestyle Exploration			
Skills and Interest Mash-Up			
Designing Your Dream Job			

Unit 5 : Preparing for the Next Phase

7th Grade Declassified			
Preparing for 8th grade			
Learning From Student Stories Pt 1			
Learning From Student Stories Pt 2			
Holding Myself Accountable			
Pep Talk to Future Me			
Post Survey			




Unit 6 : High School Application Process

High School Admissions			
Launching High School Research			
Understanding High School Fit			
Understanding High School Match			
Understanding High School Data			
Creating My High School List			

8th Grade

Lesson	Aspiration	Planning	Self-Advocacy
Unit 0: Launch of Success Bound			
What is Success Bound?			
Pre Survey			
Student Questionnaire			
Unit 1 : My Identity and Life Vision			
Creative Problem-Solving			✓
Backwards Mapping My Life	✓		
WOOP Goals	✓		✓
Know Who You Are Right Now	✓		
Taking the Lead	✓		✓
Leadership in My School			
Unit 2 : Keys to Academic Success			
The Teenage Brain			✓
High School Transcripts			
Grades and Postsecondary	✓		
8th grade Attendance and Grades	✓		✓
Advocating for My School Community			✓
Becoming Agents of Change	✓		
Unit 3: Keys to Life Success			

Study Skills and Learning Strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stress Less Strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How I Make a Difference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Building Relationships			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Becoming an Upstander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Collaboration Challenge: Shipwreck			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unit 4 : Postsecondary Pathways (College and Career)			
Be Your Own Role Model	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
College Pathways		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Majors and Career Interests		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Postsecondary Hacks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High School and Careers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Life After High School Graduation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unit 5 : Preparing for the Next Phase			
Day in the Life of a Middle Schooler			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Preparing for High School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Navigating High School			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigating New Relationships			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summer Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The Celebration Album			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Post Survey			
Unit 6 : High School Application Process			

Reviewing High School Admissions			
Reviewing High School Research			
Open Houses and Info Sessions: Reviewing High School Fit			
Ranking My Options: Reviewing High School Match			
Creating My Top Five			
Preparing to Apply to High School			