



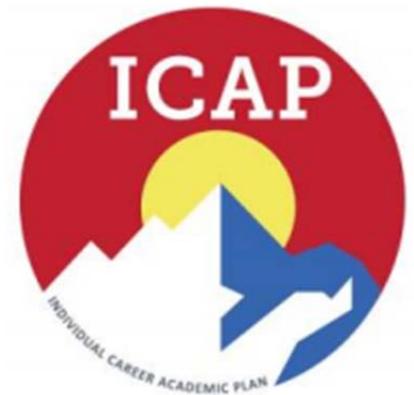
A Parent's & Guardian's Guide to the Individual Career and Academic Plan

Our mission in Pueblo City Schools - *a unique educational community strengthened by its diversity, culture, and traditions* - is to guarantee a **“world-class education that prepares graduates to succeed in a global society.”**

What is an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)?

An ICAP is a plan for students in grades 6-12 that provides a framework for students to see the connections between school coursework and activities in relation to their future career and postsecondary goals. The ICAP:

- Connects student strengths, interests, passions, and goals for their future.
- Provides postsecondary exploration to include information about military career options, trade and technical educational opportunities, and a variety of two-year and four-year educational programs at collegiate institutions.
- Creates independent students who create a vision for their future.



The “Why” Behind ICAP

- **Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR):** ICAP is the vehicle by which Colorado students explore the world beyond high school, reflect on their understanding, and plan for their next steps. ICAP is also a tool that reflects how a student's PWR is achieved, accomplished, and understood.
- **Process:** ICAP is a multi-year process that begins in 6th grade. Each year students will revisit their ICAP with counselors, teachers, and parents/guardians to ensure students' goals and plans are aligned with their visions for the future.
- **School Culture:** When parents/guardians, students, school leaders, industry professionals, and local leaders are ensuring that students gain knowledge, soft skills, and explore careers and related academic pathways, a successful ICAP occurs giving our students the opportunity to flourish in and out of school. Students will want to be present every day.

ICAP During Middle School:

- Students begin creating their ICAP in 6th grade by completing interest surveys to determine what careers might align with what they want to be when they grow up.
- ICAP quality indicators define eight areas that students should explore, experience, and use to apply their knowledge, skills, aptitudes, abilities, and awareness to be career and college ready.
- Each year during middle school, students revisit and adjust their ICAP according to changes in interests, talents, and passions.
- The ICAP follows the student throughout middle school; and, by the end of 8th grade, students will be able to articulate their goals. This becomes important when students transition into high school coursework.

ICAP During High School:

- The ICAP is the vehicle used to determine which Career Avenue students will travel to earn a Pueblo City Schools high school diploma.
- Three Career Avenues - Career Plus, Career Options, Career Now - are designed to guide students through the coursework necessary in reaching postsecondary goals. Teachers, counselors, parents/guardians must be aware of their students' ICAPs in order to help students determine the best and most appropriate coursework to complete in order to earn a high school diploma and be college or career ready.
- ICAP helps students, parents/guardians, counselors, and teachers keep track of student progress toward reaching postsecondary goals and earning a high school diploma.



Parents'/Guardians' Vital Role:

How parents/guardians can help:

- Track your student's progress. All middle schools and high schools will use *College in Colorado* to create, revise, and maintain their ICAP. Have your student invite you to access their ICAP through *College in Colorado*.
- Talk with your student often about postsecondary plans and career options.
- Communicate with your student's teachers and counselor about what your student's goals are and to monitor your student's progress toward reaching those goals.
- Understand how your student earns a Pueblo City Schools high school diploma.

Each and every student *will graduate from Pueblo City Schools with the Knowledge, skills and career plan that will lead to postsecondary education or directly into the workforce.*