



## GEAR UP: College and Career Preparation Student Standards 8-10

### K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal

|                                   | 8th Grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 9th Grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 10th Grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>Career Pathway Exploration</b> | <p><b>8.1 (K)</b> Students will identify the components of academic preparation, recognize their personal academic strengths, and analyze how early academic and personal choices (e.g., attendance, GPA, course selection, behavior, extracurricular participation, community involvement, test scores) can influence future educational and career opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>8.1.1</b> Students will identify and describe the habits, skills, and resources that contribute to effective academic preparation (e.g., study routines, time management, seeking help).</li><li>• <b>8.1.2</b> Students will explain how attendance, GPA, course choices, behavior, extracurricular activities, and community involvement can shape their academic profile and future opportunities.</li><li>• <b>8.1.3</b> Students will identify and showcase their individual academic strengths and interests, using tools such as self-assessment surveys or reflections on past successes.</li></ul> | <p><b>9.1 (K)</b> Students will explore and evaluate the cost-benefit aspects of different postsecondary pathways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9.1.1</b> Students will identify at least three possible postsecondary pathways (e.g., four-year college, community college, technical school, military service) and outline the typical duration and major requirements of each.</li><li>• <b>9.1.2.</b> Students will determine specific high school courses, standardized tests (e.g., ACT, SAT, ASVAB), application forms (e.g., FAFSA, college applications), and resources (e.g., scholarships, grants) needed for each pathway.</li><li>• <b>9.1.3</b> Students will research and compare the costs (e.g., tuition, fees, living expenses) of these pathways and estimate their potential return on investment (ROI), taking into account projected career salaries or wages.</li><li>• <b>9.1.4</b> Students will discuss postsecondary pathway interests and plans with their families.</li></ul> | <p><b>10.1 (K)</b> Students will investigate and plan for potential postsecondary pathways by identifying key milestones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10.1.1</b> Students will examine and outline the key processes involved in multiple postsecondary pathways, including applications, financial aid, interviews, standardized testing, essay writing, performance requirements, and portfolio creation, summarizing the steps, deadlines, and resources needed for each.</li><li>• <b>10.1.2</b> Students will create a visual or written timeline showing the major milestones (e.g., admissions deadlines, financial aid applications, enrollment requirements) and time commitments for various postsecondary pathways (e.g., traditional four-year colleges, community colleges, career technical education programs, apprenticeships, military service).</li><li>• <b>10.1.3</b> Students will meet with school counselors or other school staff about match and fit schools and other college and career options.</li></ul> |



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| <b>Goal Setting</b> | <p><b>8.2 (S)</b> Students will engage in goal setting by identifying, planning, and monitoring personal and academic goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>8.2.1</b> Students will review and assess their previous goals, examining which strategies were most effective and why. They will then connect these insights to potential postsecondary pathways, explaining how past successes and challenges can inform future educational and career planning.</li><li>• <b>8.2.2.</b> Students will identify at least two individuals in their community who have pursued different postsecondary pathways, engage them in conversations about their educational and career experiences, and summarize the key insights gained in a short reflection or presentation.</li><li>• <b>8.2.3</b> Students will develop a career pathway plan that includes specific milestones, potential obstacles, and resources or supports.</li></ul> | <p><b>9.3 (A)</b> Students will articulate their college and career aspirations, identify potential obstacles, and outline strategies to overcome them, demonstrating a belief in their own capability to achieve these goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9.3.1</b> Students will identify at least two college and career aspirations (e.g., attending a four-year college, earning a technical certification) and list initial obstacles (e.g., finances, academic requirements), proposing one basic strategy to address each.</li></ul> | <p><b>10.3 (A)</b> Students will articulate their college and career aspirations, identify potential obstacles, and outline strategies to overcome them, demonstrating a belief in their own capability to achieve these goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10.3.1</b> Building on their identified aspirations, students will research specific programs or institutions, detail at least two new potential obstacles (e.g., admission deadlines, standardized test requirements), and refine their strategies to address each, demonstrating increased confidence in their ability to succeed.</li></ul> |

**Key: K - Knowledge | S - Skills | A - Attitudes**



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| <b>Academic Preparation</b> | <p><b>8.4 (S)</b> Students will apply algebraic thinking to represent, analyze, and solve mathematical problems, demonstrating an understanding of mathematical relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for mathematics, focusing on concepts such as recognizing patterns, understanding variables, creating equations or expressions, and solving problems using algebraic reasoning.</li></ul> <p><b>8.5 (S)</b> Students will foster curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, and imagination by applying scientific reasoning and engineering practices to investigate, analyze, and explain phenomena in the natural and designed worlds, demonstrating an understanding of scientific relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for science and engineering.</li></ul> | <p><b>9.5 (S)</b> Students will apply algebraic thinking to represent, analyze, and solve mathematical problems, demonstrating an understanding of mathematical relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for mathematics, focusing on concepts such as recognizing patterns, understanding variables, creating equations or expressions, and solving problems using algebraic reasoning.</li></ul> <p><b>9.6 (S)</b> Students will foster curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, and imagination by applying scientific reasoning and engineering practices to investigate, analyze, and explain phenomena in the natural and designed worlds, demonstrating an understanding of scientific relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for science and engineering.</li></ul> <p><b>9.7 (S)</b> Students will compose clear and well-structured expository texts to explain, inform, or describe a topic, using evidence and logical organization to effectively convey their ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, students will engage in writing tasks aligned with grade-level state standards for English Language Arts, focusing on crafting explanatory texts with a clear purpose, coherent organization, and supporting details.</li></ul> | <p><b>10.5 (S)</b> Students will apply algebraic thinking to represent, analyze, and solve mathematical problems, demonstrating an understanding of mathematical relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for mathematics, focusing on concepts such as recognizing patterns, understanding variables, creating equations or expressions, and solving problems using algebraic reasoning.</li></ul> <p><b>10.6 (S)</b> Students will foster curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, and imagination by applying scientific reasoning and engineering practices to investigate, analyze, and explain phenomena in the natural and designed worlds, demonstrating an understanding of scientific relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for science and engineering.</li></ul> <p><b>10.7 (S)</b> Students will compose clear and well-structured expository texts to explain, inform, or describe a topic, using evidence and logical organization to effectively convey their ideas.</p> |

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| Academic Preparation (continued) | <p><b>8.4 (S)</b> Students will apply algebraic thinking to represent, analyze, and solve mathematical problems, demonstrating an understanding of mathematical relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for mathematics, focusing on concepts such as recognizing patterns, understanding variables, creating equations or expressions, and solving problems using algebraic reasoning.</li></ul> <p><b>8.5 (S)</b> Students will foster curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, and imagination by applying scientific reasoning and engineering practices to investigate, analyze, and explain phenomena in the natural and designed worlds, demonstrating an understanding of scientific relationships and patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, instruction should align to grade-level state standards for science and engineering.</li></ul> | <p><b>9.8 (S)</b> Students will strengthen both collaborative and independent study skills, refine academic writing, and develop strategic test-taking, reading, and interview techniques to excel academically and prepare for college and career success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9.8.1</b> Students will establish independent study routines (e.g., daily scheduling, note-taking) and practice effective group study techniques, such as assigning roles and sharing resources, to improve overall academic performance.</li><li>• <b>9.8.2</b> Students will write short expository essays, focusing on clear organization, logical flow, and proper grammar, as a foundation for more advanced writing in later grades.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clarification Statement:</b> To achieve this standard, students will engage in writing tasks aligned with grade-level state standards for English Language Arts, focusing on crafting explanatory texts with a clear purpose, coherent organization, and supporting details.</li></ul> <p><b>10.8 (S)</b> Students will strengthen both collaborative and independent study skills, refine academic writing, and develop strategic test-taking, reading, and interview techniques to excel academically and prepare for college and career success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10.8.1</b> Students will amplify group study sessions by setting common goals and using digital tools (e.g., shared documents, online flashcards) to prepare for tests, while also practicing strategic reading and test-taking techniques (e.g., annotating passages, timing strategies).</li><li>• <b>10.8.2</b> Students will improve expository essays by incorporating stronger evidence, refining their transitions, and demonstrating greater precision and clarity in their written communication.</li></ul> |