

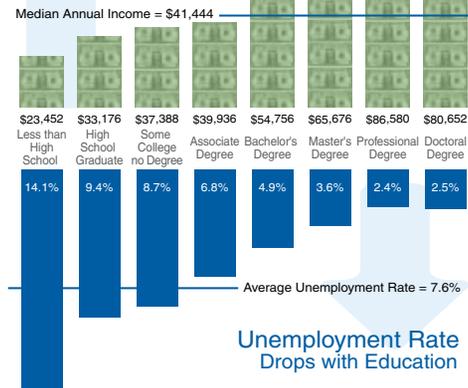
ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST JOB OPENINGS EACH YEAR

Where will the jobs be when my child enters the workforce? Here are some sample occupations with the largest number of openings in Illinois through 2018. To see additional best bet occupations go to *Learn More Earn More* at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Custom/Library/publications/Publications/LearnMoreEarnMore.pdf>

Occupational Title	Annual Job Openings	Avg. Hourly Entry Wage
Work Experience + 4 Years of College or More		
General and Operations Managers	1,704	\$26.80
Lawyers	1,132	\$31.40
4 Years of College (Bachelor's Degree)		
Registered Nurses	4,238	\$22.85
Accountants & Auditors	1,975	\$21.04
2 Years College (Associate's Degree)		
Computer Support Specialists	715	\$15.29
Dental Hygienists	368	\$18.95
Vocational Training After High School		
Licensed Practical Nurses	1,273	\$15.13
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	1,089	\$10.97
Long-Term On-The-Job Training		
Restaurant Cooks	1,250	\$8.74
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,131	\$20.17
Moderate-Term On-The-Job Training		
Customer Service Representatives	4,557	\$10.95
Truck Drivers, Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	2,239	\$13.60
Short-Term On-The-Job Training		
Cashiers	6,879	\$8.81
Retail Salespersons	6,552	\$8.84

(Openings are through 2018; wage data is for 2010 Q2.)

Average Annual Income Rises with Education



OTHER RESOURCES

There are many sites on the Internet for education, financial aid and career planning. Try the following free government and nonprofit sites first:

<http://bls.gov/k12/index.htm> is the Bureau of Labor Statistics site for students. Click on interests and see related occupations.

www.collegeillinois.com College Illinois! is the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's site for financial aid with a user-friendly guide to scholarships, grants, work-study and more.

www.finaid.org offers financial aid information with links to test preparation and to internship opportunities for students who want to earn as they learn.

www.isbe.net The Illinois State Board of Education has information on learning standards, career and technical education (CTE) and more.

www.iccb.state.il.us The Illinois Community College Board administers Career and Technical Education (CTE) and adult education initiatives. The site links to the 48 community colleges in the state.

www.ibhe.state.il.us The Illinois Board of Higher Education has information on four-year and graduate institutions, public and private. See their *Consumer Information* section for accreditation, whether college is the right choice, and how to avoid diploma mills or other scams.

www.illinoisworknet.com Illinois workNet is the online career one-stop service for job listings, local hiring events, retraining information, social service providers and disability resources. Check the Key Sectors area for growth industries and their career pathways.

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Kids and Careers: How Families Can Help Youth Succeed



PARENT INVOLVEMENT = STUDENT SUCCESS

You are your child's first and best role model. After all, he or she is always watching you and listening to what you say about the world of work. You set the tone for success by encouraging your child's interests and goals. Discuss your own experience and what you've liked and disliked about your employment. Find "teachable moments" such as talking about the jobs you see as you watch television together.

One way to help children make decisions is by giving good, solid information. This brochure offers some ideas and websites that your child may find useful when deciding on a direction in life. Studies show that a clear goal and a plan to reach it keeps kids more motivated and less likely to drop out of school - and a high school diploma is needed for almost every job. That diploma can add nearly half a million dollars to earnings over a lifetime.

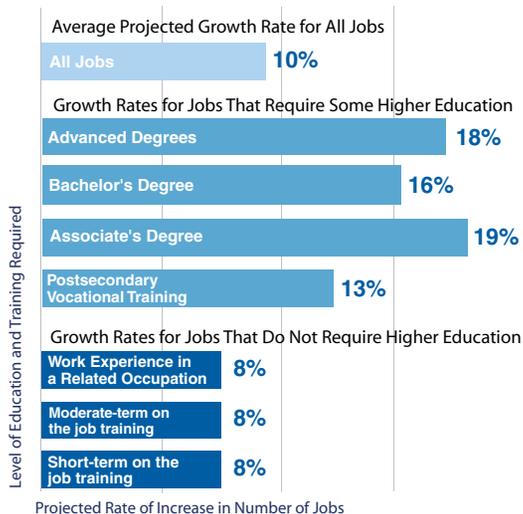
The economic impacts of high school dropouts are astounding. Research shows that:

- High school dropouts account for half of the households on welfare and over 60% of the population incarcerated in state and federal prisons.
- Persons without a high school education or equivalent are 50% more likely to be unemployed and earn about \$9,000 less per year than high school graduates.

A career plan will not lock students into a single path. With global competition and rapidly changing technology, workers will need to re-evaluate and retrain often. Doing well in school will keep all options open.

Families now can use the Internet to help their children explore careers. The Illinois Department of Employment Security provides career resources for elementary, middle, junior, high school, college and beyond at www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo and then click on CIS, CIS Junior, CIS Quick Click or ReNEW. These are available to all Illinois citizens at no charge. For teen work experience, see the annual update of "Summer Job Central" under Tools & Resources.

Jobs That Require Higher Education Are Growing Faster Than Those That Require Less Education



THREE EASY STEPS TO A CAREER PLAN

STEP ONE: EXPLORE INTERESTS

- Talk to your children about their interests, skills or passions.
- What have you noticed about them from an early age?
- Encourage looking into any and all careers that seem like fun because they can narrow them down later.

Go to www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo where you'll find:

- CIS Quick Click for all
- CIS Junior for middle and junior high students
- CIS, the Career Information System, for high school and college students
- ReNEW for adults.

STEP TWO: FIND CAREERS THAT MATCH

- When students know their interests they can see which careers match.
- CIS covers how much each occupation pays, how to prepare, working conditions and much more.

- Some have videos showing people on the job.
- Encourage children to talk to you, family members, teachers, counselors, and community leaders about how they got to where they are in life.
- These contacts can help students locate people who work in the fields they think they would like to enter.
- This can be a way to find internships, summer jobs and employment.
- Some adults may let students shadow them to see a typical day on the job.

STEP THREE: DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION

- Students need facts about the education and training required for their chosen occupations.
- Their school guidance counselors can help them develop plans and take the right courses to reach their goals.
- If they are going beyond high school, counselors can provide information on schools, colleges, financial aid and military training.
- Their progress can be tracked in My CIS Portfolio, the Course Planner, and the Career Planner in CIS.

IMPORTANT TARGETS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Middle School / Junior High:

- Begin exploring interests. Look at which activities students enjoy most and help them think about potential careers.
- Start learning about Internet career planning resources such as CIS Junior and the Career Information System (CIS) at www.ides.illinois.gov under the Individuals tab then *Career Information*.

Freshman Year:

- Take career assessments to identify interests, skills, work values and personality preferences. There are assessment tools in CIS; results can be stored in My CIS Portfolio.
- Use the Course Planner and the Career Planner in CIS to keep track of requirements and related courses that support career directions.

Sophomore Year:

- Join organizations and volunteer in fields related to intended career goals.
- If offered at school take the PLAN test (a pre-ACT test) and/or the PSAT (a pre-SAT test) for the college bound.

Junior Year:

- Consider all opportunities including apprenticeship programs for skilled trades, military service, entrepreneurship and employment as well as college.
- Schedule the SAT and/or ACT for the fall of the junior year.
- Talk to guidance counselors for more information on schools and careers. They can be helpful in making sure all time lines are met.

Senior Year:

- Explore school-sponsored job shadowing or other ways to observe people on the job. Sign up for internships or other work experience programs.
- Generate a resume using My CIS Portfolio's "My Education and Work History."
- Learn about writing a college entrance essay in CIS' Illinois Schools or National Schools in the FAQs.
- Check Financial Aid in CIS (see Paying for School on the blue bar) if college bound, and apply for financial aid by January of the senior year.
- Use the Job Search section of CIS to fine tune cover letters, resumes and interviewing skills. JOBcentral (within Occupations) and the Employer Locator section can help target where to apply for jobs.