

# PLAN



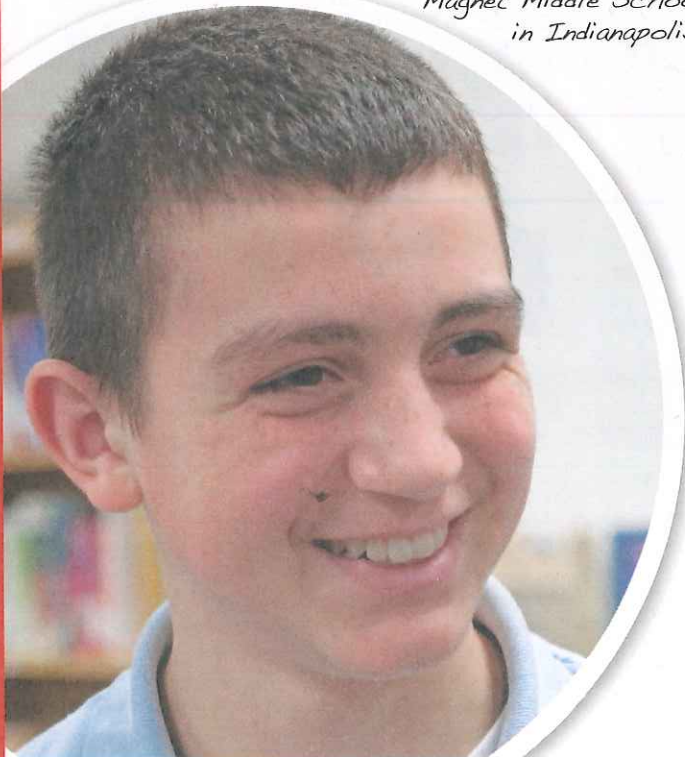
Where are you going in life? Take hold of your future and start planning for success in college and beyond.

## THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU

**S**cientist? Accountant? Teacher? Engineer? It's never too early to begin planning for college and a career, and middle school is the perfect time to explore the kinds of jobs that appeal to you.

Carlos, a seventh-grader at H.L. Harshman Magnet Middle School in Indianapolis, is already planning to join the Air Force. Getting admitted to the Air Force Academy can be tough, so Carlos has started preparing by staying in shape and keeping his grades up. He's also given the Air Force his contact information so they can keep him informed of requirements throughout high school.

*Carlos is in seventh grade at H.L. Harshman Magnet Middle School in Indianapolis.*



You can start working toward your goals, too, even if you're not sure exactly what career is the best fit for you. Your middle school years are a prime opportunity to explore careers, talk to professionals and develop your passions in and out of school. When you're dreaming about the future, make sure that education is part of those plans.

An education beyond high school is much more important than it was for your parents' generation. Two-thirds of all new jobs require some form of education beyond high school, so start thinking about the college credential that matches your future goals: one-year certificate, two-year associate degree, four-year bachelor's degree or even a postgraduate degree.

Need more reasons why a college education is your ticket to success? There are hundreds of reasons—but here are just a few:

### Reason #1

**You'll make more money.** Full-time workers with a college degree earn \$20,000 more each year on average than those with just a high school diploma. As a college grad, you'll make \$1 million more over the course of your career!

### What's it Take?

The average length of education after high school for some common careers:

**Administrative Assistant** = two years (varies)

**Doctor** = about 11 years, including three years of residency in a hospital or clinic

**Engineer** = four to six years

**Graphic Designer** = four years

**Mechanic** = two years (varies)

**Psychologist** = six or more years

**Teacher** = four years



**Reason #2**

**You'll live a healthier, fuller life.** College grads are more likely to volunteer, vote and see the world. They're also less likely to smoke, be obese or have low-birth-weight babies.

**Reason #3**

**You're more likely to get (and keep) a job.** Unemployment rates for college graduates are about half that of high school graduates, even during a recession. And, unlike a home or car, a college degree is yours for a lifetime.

**Bonus Reason:**

**Indiana is counting on you.** At least 60 percent of all Hoosiers must have a college degree or quality credential by 2025 for Indiana to thrive in a global economy. That means we need at least 6,000 more college graduates each year over the next decade. Are you ready to be one of them?



It's never too early to start planning for college! Learn More Indiana's annual College GO! Week campaign launches statewide each fall to motivate students of all ages to plan for college and career success. Visit [CollegeGoWeekIndiana.org](http://CollegeGoWeekIndiana.org) today for practical steps, tips, activities and more. Your school or community may be planning local College GO! Week activities, so check to see how you can get involved.





STUDENT SNAPSHOT

## EIGHTH-GRADER CESAR

### Northwood Middle School Fort Wayne

*Cesar enjoys interacting with different cultures in his school. His favorite book is The Freedom Writers' Diary.*

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a counselor because I like helping people with their problems.

**Will you have to go to college?**

Yes, so I can learn strategies I'll need to calm people down.

**What is your favorite subject in school?**

Social Studies. I like learning about the histories of other countries and about our own country, too.

