

# Illinois Post-School Survey Expanded Version Interview Questions and Interviewer Script

**CALLER PROMPTS (In Red)**  
**GO TO CUES (Highlighted)**  
**SCRIPTS (Highlighted)**

**THESE DATA MUST BE GATHERED BETWEEN MAY AND AUGUST OF THE YEAR  
FOLLOWING THE STUDENT'S EXIT FROM HIGH SCHOOL.**

---

"Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling for the \_\_\_\_\_ School District. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ (former student's name) received a letter stating that someone representing their former high school would be calling to ask questions about their current school, work and independent living activities, and how well high school prepared them for adult living. The answers will be used to better plan for classes and activities for current and future students."

As needed, assure the person answering the phone that you are not trying to sell anything. Refer to the letter they received again.

**If Phone Answered by Former Student, say:**

"I would like to ask you some questions about your current work, school and independent living activities, as well as your high school experiences. The questions will only take a short time. Your answers will be kept confidential and will be used to help your school district better plan classes and activities for future students. May I ask you these questions now?"

**IF YES, GO TO QUESTION #1**

**IF NO ASK:**

"Would it be okay to contact you again in a few days in the event you have changed your mind?"

"Is there a time when it would be more convenient to talk with you?"

"Is there any additional information I can provide that might help you decide to answer some questions?"

**IF NO SAY: "Okay, thank you for your time."  
END SURVEY HERE**

**If Phone Answered by Parent or Guardian, say:**

"I would like to ask \_\_\_\_\_ (former student's name) some questions about their current work and school activities. What is the best way to contact \_\_\_\_\_ (former student's name)?"

If Person who answered phone responds:

You can contact \_\_\_\_\_ at:

**Thank respondent for information, end call, and try to reach former student with the given information.**

If Former student is unavailable:

ASK: "Do you feel you know enough about \_\_\_\_\_ (former student's name) current work and school activities to answer a few questions?"

If YES, GO TO QUESTION #1

If NO, ASK: "Ok, Thank You. Do you know a more convenient time to call back to speak to someone who may know more information about this student?"

## POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL

1. At any time since leaving high school, *have you ever* attended any school, job training, or education program?

(1) NO → GO TO QUESTION 6

(2) YES → GO TO QUESTIONS 2, 3, 4, & 5

(99) No Answer

2. Did you complete an entire term (term can include quarter, semester, inter-session, summer, or on-line)?

(1) NO

(2) YES

(99) No Answer

3. Describe the kind of school or job training program you attended. (CHECK ONE OPTION) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

\_\_\_ High school completion (Adult Basic Education, GED) (1)

\_\_\_ Short-term education or employment training program (WIA, Job Corps) (2)

\_\_\_ Vocational/Technical School - less than a 2-year program (3)

\_\_\_ Higher education at 2 year community college (4)

\_\_\_ Higher education at 4 year college/university (5)

\_\_\_ Volunteer/community service training (Peace Corps, Vista, AmeriCorps, missionary work, etc.) (6)

\_\_\_ Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_ (88)

\_\_\_ No Answer (99)

4. Have you **requested** support services or accommodations for your disability at the school or job training program you attended?

(1) NO

(2) YES

(99) No Answer

5. Have you **received** support services or accommodations for your disability at the school or job training program you attended?

(1) NO  
(2) YES  
(99) No Answer

**GO TO QUESTION 7**

6. Why did you decide not to attend a school, training program, college or university? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

\_\_\_ Was employed (1)  
\_\_\_ Do not like school (or do not want to go to school) (2)  
\_\_\_ Did not have the skills to continue in school (3)  
\_\_\_ Did not have the money to go to school (4)  
\_\_\_ Family does not want me to go to school (5)  
\_\_\_ Needed to take care of family responsibilities (6)  
\_\_\_ Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_ (88)  
\_\_\_ No Answer (99)

**EMPLOYMENT**

7. At any time since leaving high school, *have you ever* worked?

(1) NO → **GO TO QUESTION 15**  
(2) YES → **GO TO QUESTIONS 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12**  
(99) No Answer

8. Since leaving high school, have you worked for a total of 3 months (about 90 days)? **Probe: Tell respondent that it does not need to be in a row.**

(1) NO  
(2) YES  
(99) No Answer

9. Did you work on average 20 or more hours per week (or about half time of a 40-hour week)?

(1) NO  
(2) YES  
(99) No Answer

10. Were you paid at least minimum wage? (Minimum wage in Illinois for people 18 and older increased from \$11.00/hour to \$12.00/hour on January 1, 2022. New employees over the age of 18 may be paid up to 50 cents less per hour during their first 90 days of employment. Minimum wage in Chicago increased from at least \$13.50/hour to \$14.00/hour on July 1, 2021. Minimum wage in Cook County is \$13.00/hour.)

- (1) NO
- (2) YES
- (99) No Answer

11. Describe the job you have or have had. (*CHECK ONE OPTION*) [Note: If a telephone survey, ask this question as an open-ended question and train interviewers to mark appropriate response.]

- ☐ In a company, business, or service with people with and without disabilities (1)
- ☐ In the military (2)
- ☐ In supported employment (paid work with services and wage support to the employer) (3)
- ☐ Self-employed (4)
- ☐ In your family's business (such as farm, store, fishing, ranching, catering) (5)
- ☐ In sheltered employment (where most workers have disabilities) (6)
- ☐ Employed while in jail or prison (7)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

12. Are you currently working?

- (1) NO → GO TO QUESTIONS 13, 14, 15, & 16
- (2) YES → GO TO QUESTION 18
- (99) No Answer

13. How long have you not been working?

- ☐ Less than 3 months (1)
- ☐ 3 to 6 months (2)
- ☐ More than 6 months (3)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

14. How long did you have your last job?

- ☐ Less than 3 months (1)
- ☐ 3 to 6 months (2)
- ☐ More than 6 months (3)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

15. What reason(s) best describes why you are not currently working? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Attending a training program, college, or university (1)
- ☐ Cannot find any job (2)
- ☐ Cannot find a job that I am interested in doing (3)
- ☐ Lack skills needed to get a job (4)
- ☐ Lack transportation (5)
- ☐ Quit last job (6)
- ☐ Fired from last job (7)
- ☐ Do not want to lose government benefits (such as SSI) (8)
- ☐ Problems related to my health or disability (9)
- ☐ Do not want to work (10)
- ☐ Parents/family do not want me to work (11)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

16. Are you currently looking for work?

- (1) NO → GO TO QUESTION 18
- (2) YES → GO TO QUESTION 17
- (99) No Answer

17. What activities are you doing to look for work? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Searching internet, reading newspaper, listening to radio advertisements (1)
- ☐ Talking with family and friends (2)
- ☐ Filling out and turning in applications (3)
- ☐ Attending job/career fairs (4)
- ☐ Working with an employment agency or job training service (such as Illinois workNet Center, IllinoisJobLink) (5)
- ☐ Working with an agency for people with disabilities (such as Division of Rehabilitation Services) (6)
- ☐ Getting help from a job coach or supported employment provider (7)
- ☐ Volunteering (8)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

## HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

18. What skills needed for life as an adult did your high school experiences help prepare you for? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Reading for daily living (such as on the job, internet, newspaper) (1)
- ☐ Math for daily living (such as on the job, bank account) (2)
- ☐ Managing money/personal finances (3)
- ☐ Setting goals (4)
- ☐ Achieving goals (5)
- ☐ Asking for help from others to achieve your goals (6)
- ☐ Understanding/explaining your disability (7)
- ☐ Taking care of your health (8)
- ☐ Dealing with personal problems (9)
- ☐ Using technology (such as computers, adaptive equipment) (10)
- ☐ Finding work/completing job applications (11)
- ☐ Interviewing for a job (12)
- ☐ Applying to colleges, schools, or training programs (13)
- ☐ Attending colleges, schools, or training programs (14)
- ☐ Participating in community recreation activities (15)
- ☐ Travel within the community (for work, education, recreation) (16)
- ☐ Safety within the community (17)
- ☐ Getting along with others (18)
- ☐ Making friends (19)
- ☐ Dating and sexuality (20)
- ☐ Marriage duties/responsibilities (21)
- ☐ Parenting duties/responsibilities (22)
- ☐ Voting in elections (23)
- ☐ None (24)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

19. What adult services or agencies were you referred to prior to leaving high school? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Disability services at a community college, 4 year college or other post-secondary education institution (1)
- ☐ Employment assistance (such as WIOA, Job Corps) (2)
- ☐ Public transportation in your community (such as bus, train) (3)
- ☐ Department of Human Services (DHS)/Family Community Resource Center (4)
- ☐ Department of Human Services/Developmental Disabilities Services (5)
- ☐ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)/Bureau of Blind/Visually Impaired (6)
- ☐ Center for Independent Living (7)
- ☐ Housing assistance (such as Section 8) (8)
- ☐ Social Security Administration (SSI, SSDI) (9)
- ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (10)
- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Link card/food stamps) (11)
- ☐ Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) (12)
- ☐ Medicaid/All Kids health insurance (13)
- ☐ Medical care/services (14)
- ☐ Private nursing, personal care assistance (15)
- ☐ Mental health services (16)
- ☐ Alcohol/drug treatment services (17)
- ☐ Dental care/services (18)
- ☐ Parole/probation services (19)
- ☐ Not referred to any adult service agencies (20)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

20. Did you leave high school before graduating with a diploma or a certificate of completion ("dropped out")?

- (1) NO → GO TO QUESTION 23
- (2) YES → GO TO QUESTION 21
- (99) No Answer

21. Why did you leave high school before graduating with a diploma or a certificate of completion? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Lost interest in school (1)
- ☐ Classes were too hard (2)
- ☐ Could not meet graduation requirements (3)
- ☐ Did not "fit in" at school (4)
- ☐ Too many people (5)
- ☐ Problems with other students (6)
- ☐ Problems with teachers or administrators (7)
- ☐ Too many absences (8)
- ☐ In trouble too much (9)
- ☐ Encouraged to leave by school staff (10)
- ☐ Encouraged to leave by parent/family (11)
- ☐ Parenting/family responsibilities (12)
- ☐ Wanted to go to work (13)
- ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

22. What would have kept you from leaving high school before graduating? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Nothing (1)
- ☐ More support from teachers (2)
- ☐ More support from administrators (such as principal, deans) (3)
- ☐ More support from family (4)
- ☐ Different class options (5)
- ☐ More friends/better relationships with other students (6)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)



## INDEPENDENT LIVING

23. What adult services or assistance do you currently receive? (*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Disability services at a community college, 4 year college or other post-secondary education institution (1)
- ☐ Employment assistance (such as WIOA, Job Corps) (2)
- ☐ Public transportation in your community (such as bus, train) (3)
- ☐ Department of Human Services (DHS)/Family Community Resource Center (4)
- ☐ Department of Human Services/Developmental Disabilities Services (5)
- ☐ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)/Bureau of Blind/Visually Impaired (6)
- ☐ Center for Independent Living (7)
- ☐ Housing assistance (such as Section 8) (8)
- ☐ Social Security Administration (SSI, SSDI) (9)
- ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (10)
- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Link card/food stamps) (11)
- ☐ Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) (12)
- ☐ Medicaid/All Kids health insurance (13)
- ☐ Medical care/services (14)
- ☐ Private nursing, personal care assistance (15)
- ☐ Mental health services (16)
- ☐ Alcohol/drug treatment services (17)
- ☐ Dental care/services (18)
- ☐ Parole/probation services (19)
- ☐ Not receiving any adult services or assistance (20)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

24. Describe your living arrangements for most of the time since you left high school. (*CHECK ONE OPTION*) [Note: If telephone survey, ask as an open-ended question and train interviewers to check the appropriate response.]

- ☐ Living with parent/guardian/family in their apartment/home (1)
- ☐ Living independently in a rented, leased or purchased apartment/home (2)
- ☐ In student housing (such as a dormitory or residence hall) (3)
- ☐ In military housing (4)
- ☐ In apartment/group home for people with disabilities (5)
- ☐ Institutional care facilities (such as a developmental center, inpatient mental health center, assisted living facility, nursing home, hospital) (6)
- ☐ Prison or jail (7)
- ☐ Temporary living arrangements/homeless (8)
- ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (88)
- ☐ No Answer (99)

**DATA COLLECTION COMPLETED**

**SAY:** "Thank you for participating in this survey. Your answers will help to improve future programs and services for students."