

Heartland Community College Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out recovery program for the youth. The contract began on July 1, 2021 and will terminate on June 30, 2022. This contract is renewable for two additional years at the discretion of Career Link. The funding amount is \$66,756. The enrollment goal is 20 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for out-of-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Heartland Community College will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for McLean County youth. The program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have dropped out of high school, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged, will be provided an opportunity to participate in a GED Recovery Program.

Heartland Community College will provide all four required elements of the program – instruction for GED preparation, for literacy and numeracy gains, for employment related skills, and incentives to motivate students to achieve. The College will also partner with other groups and businesses to provide work experience opportunities.

Instruction for HSE exam preparation will include language arts (reading and writing), math, science and social studies. The career readiness portions of the curriculum will include instruction in career pathways awareness, job searching and soft skills. Students will also learn about post-secondary transitions.

Students may be eligible to take the Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (ICAPS). This program provides concurrent enrollment and instruction in a team-taught environment with Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Education. The adult education department will offer a Microsoft Office Specialist ICAPS classes. Students are required to take 17 credit hours of CTE courses to earn the certificate. Concurrently, students must take High School Equivalency classes. In addition, the Adult Education program is working on a Building Maintenance skills ICAPS.

The program will provide programming to accelerate student transitioning into post-secondary education which will include a high support and strong contact approach. From enrollment to final transition, we will provide assistance to the students. At enrollment and orientation, we will help students identify potential barriers and help them find solutions. When students are enrolled in the classes, we will offer a support class to help with any issues in the credit class and to teach students workplace skills. The credit class will be team taught by a credit class instructor and an adult education instructor who will share learning objectives and outcomes. To help students transition into post-secondary education, an appointed academic advisor and the Coordinator of Student Support and Transitions will be a resource for students.

A financial incentive system will be offered to encourage perseverance and participation in goal-directed activities. Incentives may be modified, with prior approval from Career Link, as the need arises to make them more effective and appropriate in promoting program successes.