

Peoria Park District 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 \$200,000. The enrollment goal is 40 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for out-of-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Peoria Park District will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for Peoria 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.

Peoria Park District 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. Peoria Park District will also partner with other groups and businesses to provide workforce experiences.

Moonlight Coalition, supported by the Peoria Park District, will provide direct service and support for Elements #1 (GED instruction, preparation, and assessment); #2 (instruction and assessment in literacy and numeracy); #3 (instruction in Career Exploration, Job Readiness Skills, and Job Search Techniques); #4 (incentives for student growth); and the Optional Element (Work Experience).

GED/HISET instructional areas include Reading (Language Arts), Math, Science, Social Studies, Writing (grammar and essay), and the Constitution. These content areas fulfill the requirements of Elements 1-4. Additional instruction in the areas of Career Exploration, Job Readiness Skills, and Job Search Techniques is provided, meeting the requirements of Element #3 and the Optional Element of Work Experience.

Moonlight students ages 16-24 who demonstrate regular and reliable patterns of attendance, work ethic and academic performance are selected to participate in a related work program. Selected students are required to complete an Orientation and Soft Skills workshop prior to beginning the work program. Job sites are arranged by the Career Link Case Manager and the Moonlight Job Coach. Job Coaches will initiate the process of placing students in jobs and will maintain regular and ongoing contact with both the students and employers.

Incentives are offered in the form of checks made out to students when they achieve targeted benchmarks. Incentives will also be awarded with achievements in grade level improvements, attendance, and passing elements of the GED test.