

MEC ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Miller Education Center (MEC) offers most of the alternative options for the Hillsboro School District. The Center is comprised of nine programs at five different sites. Stan Esselstrom is the Principal who oversees the MEC program.

MILLER EDUCATION CENTER – WEST

MEC 9-12 Program: The 9-12 Program is the most traditional of the alternative options. Students apply for the program through their site school counselor. Applications are accepted every nine weeks. Once an application is received for a student, an interview process occurs. If a student is accepted, four full-time teachers and support staff, including a counselor and special education and ESL staff, provide a hands-on curriculum tailored to individual student needs. Students are able to earn their high school diploma through the program.

MEC 9-12 does not accept expelled students or students who have committed felonies or certain misdemeanors. There is an on-site teen parent program (including a nursery) for up to 12 infants and toddlers. The capacity for MEC 9-12 is 70 students.

Two high schools, Century and Glencoe also have nurseries. Referrals go through MEC for placement.

MILLER EDUCATION CENTER – SOUTH

MEC 6/7/8: The middle school alternative program is housed at the Hillsboro Boys and Girls Club. Two teachers and support staff provide hands-on instruction to expelled youth and students who have experienced academic or social difficulties at their site school. Students who are not expelled must apply to the program. Intake interviews are conducted by staff. The capacity for MEC 6/7/8 is 30 students.

MILLER EDUCATION CENTER – EAST

TOPS: The transition options program runs late morning through early evening on Mondays through Thursdays. Students are mostly upperclassmen who are credit deficient and require credit recovery. Students are classified into three areas: **Diploma**, students who have 6.0 or fewer credits remaining towards their diploma; **Transition**, students who need an alternative opportunity for a short time and transition to another option or return to their home school; and **Credit Recovery**. Two teachers and two support staff provide individualized, credit-by-proficiency opportunities. Students can earn credits towards their diploma.

PEARL: PEARL is a program for expelled 8th graders and high school youth. The PEARL program runs for 3 hours every morning. Students at PEARL are provided with individualized education opportunities, meet with an intern counselor and participate in

Social Responsibility Training. Instruction is provided by a TOPS teacher and a support staff member.

GED: A GED preparation program is offered through MEC. One teacher and a support staff member provide GED pre-testing, GED counseling, and preparatory work. The district will pay for in-district students to take their GED test. GED prep runs Monday through Thursday.

CONNECT: Connect is a work readiness and GED prep program for youth ages 16-21. The program focuses on out of school youth who require job skills and who have not earned a high school diploma. Three classified case managers provide oversight, orientations, and instruction.

HIP: The Hillsboro In-School Program (HIP) is a program funded by a federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant. The program identifies at-risk youth in the District's four high schools and within the MEC programs and provides on-going incentives and support. Students receive work readiness training, financial supports, and academic counseling. Three classified case managers plus staff at the four high schools oversee the program. HIP also offers a summer program for youth. CONNECT and HIP are funded through grants provided by WorkSystems Inc. and the Department of Labor.

Summer Jobs Program (SJP/WSI): SJP is a summer program offered at MEC through Work Systems, Inc., and the Dept. of Labor. Federal grant funds are used to place students in summer jobs, to provide work readiness training, and to allow for credit recovery. The program is open to students from throughout Washington County.

HARKIN'S HOUSE

Harkin's House: Harkin's House is a residential placement for pre-adjudicated youth under the age of 18. Students are placed at Harkin's House by the Juvenile Department. Students are provided with 3 hours of instruction daily by a teacher and a support staff member.

WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL

Washington County Jail Program: In conjunction with jail staff, a teacher provides individual instruction for GED and diploma-seeking adjudicated youth and adults incarcerated in the Washington County Jail.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Site-based Credit Recovery: Using PLATO and credit-by-proficiency, students are able to complete credit recovery at their site school. Arrangements are made through their site school.

Outreach Recovery Program (ORP): ORP is a three week credit recovery program offered by Miller Education Center to non-graduating seniors during the summer.

If a student's needs cannot be met by either a comprehensive school placement or a Miller Education Center program option, the district has the ability to contract with outside agencies and programs.