

East Peoria High School and Illinois Central College Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out prevention program for the students of the East Peoria High School. The program will be a joint program between East Peoria High School (EPHS) and Illinois Central College (ICC). The contract begins July 1, 2019 and will terminate on June 30, 2020, but may be extended for two additional years. The funding amount is \$49,945.00. The enrollment goal is 20 students. Students will be Juniors and Seniors. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for in-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

EPHS and ICC will provide an intensive education and employment skills program for at-risk students. The dropout prevention program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have been identified by the school district as at-risk, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged.

Participants will begin their day at the high school in their assigned curriculum. The curriculum will contain a scheduled Careers Class that meets daily. Students will be transported to Illinois Central College mid-morning to attend course work in study skills, career choice, math, English, reading, college readiness, as well as the opportunity for occupational credit classes. Students will then return to the high school after the noon hour to finish their school day with community based work experience, a Career Link sponsored internship or an academic curriculum.

Students successfully completing the college classes through the Bridge Program will receive dual credit earned at the high school and community college level. These credits apply toward high school graduation will be earned as well as official college credit. Credit will be earned for the high school related career and life skills coursework and the Career Link sponsored internships.

Participants of the program will be given leadership opportunities through involvement in the on-campus club, SkillsUSA at ICC. Students will complete the online Professional Development Program which will qualify for them to compete against other students across the state at the SkillsUSA conference in Springfield, Illinois. Subjects mastered for competition may include these following topics: personal awareness, goal setting, community service, customer service, job interviewing, communication, teamwork, ethics, conflict resolution, mentoring and networking.

Students who have successfully completed at least one year in the Bridge Program will be offered mentoring opportunities with incoming Bridge participants. The ICC Bridge Peer Mentoring Program is designed to provide support and guidance to incoming grant funded students.

At least 50 percent of the students in the program will be placed in Work Experience or On-the-Job Training sponsored by Career Link. Students can participate in these programs either on part time or full time bases throughout the school year and/or summer. The student will receive assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, and ongoing support services while taking part of these programs.