

# McLean County Regional Alternative School Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out prevention program for the students McLean County Regional Alternative School (RAS). 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 \$50,000.00. The enrollment goal is 8-10 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for in-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

McLean County RAS 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.

The RAS Career Education program will support the individual needs and learning styles of students while focusing on the 12 employability skills recognized by adult services agencies. Classroom instruction will focus on providing students with: job survival and career exploration skills related to the job, improving their ability to interact positively with others, specific skill training, and developing skills and attitudes that are relevant to the job. These include, but are not limited to, job preparation (interests, strengths and skills), job seeking skills (technology support, network building, application support), career research (required education and training), interview skills, resume writing, human relations/interpersonal skills, taxes, budgeting, and assistance for transition into post-secondary experiences.

The Career Education Program at the RAS will bridge between high school and post-secondary education. Staff will assist students in accessing resources by providing one-to-one support to complete enrollment applications, FAFSA financial aid documents, and other necessary paperwork. The course instructor will hold college and career readiness workshops designed to increase the likelihood of student success after graduation.

Students enrolled in the Career Education course will also join the Alt Action Student Leadership group. This group meets on a weekly basis to do special projects in the school and community. The group addresses and makes decisions on school related issues and determines a path for the school. It works with community partners to empower students to take action on projects they are passionate about in the area. Students will learn valuable skills, get leadership opportunities, and gain experience they can add to their vocational portfolio.

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.