

Peoria Public Schools Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out prevention program for the high school students of Peoria Public Schools. 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 20-40 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for in-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Peoria Public Schools 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 Career Class titled "College, Career and Life Ready" will be held two periods of the school day with a third extra intervention/tutoring period. Engaging more than ten and up to twenty students in each class, the course will receive its own high school credit as well as students being able to earn a credit for work-based learning each year. Key components of the program will focus on workplace skills; career interest inventory work; development of individualized learning career plan, and career counseling through partnerships with Career Link, Trio, and school career counselors; and connecting students with career mentors.

The Work Ethics curriculum and SkillsUSA will be utilized in both classes. The Work Ethics curriculum will take two years to complete when aligned with the remaining requirements. Students will also experience small group and online remediation for reading and math skills. Students will spend time in small groups also working on skill competency development. The contractor will work with Junior Achievement and use their budgeting and financial literacy kit to support this area.

The contractor will use academic and social-emotional interventions for students as needed. The academic intervention involves working in a small group with the teacher, gaining immediate feedback on what is needed to improve, and then working through an online learning solution. Both will focus on strengthening student skills based on where they are and set a learning path where they need to go. Some of the social/emotional intervention will be supported through the school social worker as well as during advisory time. Students will have access to counseling at Manual and at the Peoria Public Schools Wraparound Center as needed. The Wraparound Center provides students and their families with a wide variety of physical, mental and emotional support services in addition to juvenile probation and alternative education programs.

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.