

<b>MDUSD Youth Employment Services (YES) Q &amp; A</b> <b>June 2015</b>
--

**What is MDUSD YES?**

Mt. Diablo Unified School District's (MDUSD) Youth Employment Services (YES) is a new program funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant. MDUSD will be entering into a second year of the grant in 2015-2016 pending School Board approval. YES Program provides wrap-around *services* to WIA eligible in-school youth ages 16-21 that include; academic support, counseling and case management, enrichment and leadership opportunities, and training, mentorship and employment that leads to high school graduation and links to an array of postsecondary options to prepare youth for college and/or career.

**Who will be served by the YES program?**

MDUSD proposes to serve 60 youth ages 16-21 in Central Contra Costa County and will screen, conduct initial intake and evaluation of at a minimum 250 target population youth. The target youth population includes: *Foster Youth, Homeless, Youth with other identified attributes* (LGBTQ students, pregnant/parenting, youth with disabilities and/or basic skills deficient), *Girls / Young Women*, and *Students of Color*. Targeted resources will be given to schools with the highest concentration of foster youth, homeless and LBGTQ youth. Schools include Mt. Diablo, Ygnacio Valley and Olympic Alternative High School.

**When will the YES services be provided?**

YES Services will be provided during the school day, after school, weekends and summer.

**What are the Expected Outcomes of the YES program?**

The *expected outcomes* include growth in skill attainment, diploma attainment and retention.

MDUSD will *measure* WIA youth enrollment through an existing but enhanced data tracking systems managed by School Linked Services that tracks homeless youth under McKinney-Vento Act as well as Aeries, the student data system used by the MDUSD. Data fields to track skill attainment, diploma attainment and retention for youth ages 14-18 and entered employment rate, employment retention rate, earnings rate and credential rate for youth ages 19-21 will be maintained and disaggregated by special population groups.

**What is the Benefit of the YES Program for District students?**

Most eighteen year olds have a network of support to guide them into adulthood. However, homeless teenagers, foster youth who exit the foster care system, and LGBTQ youth often have limited family support, emotional connections, or financial stability and need greater support to navigate the system and be prepared after leaving high school. These youth often lack the experience and knowledge to live on their own and are at high risk for dropping out of school, homelessness, unemployment, early parenthood, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Our experience with youth who were in high school is that they "resurface" as young adults, often in need of access to health, mental health, and financial assistance. Our goal is to decrease the number of out of school youth who become homeless and unemployed through targeted services and support. There is an extensive need for an informal support network, ongoing preparation for household and financial management, as well as for professional help with both their emotional and physical well-being.

Mt. Diablo YES will ensure eligible students are connected to supports and resources (academic support, counseling and case management, enrichment and leadership opportunities, and training, mentorship and employment) that lead to high school graduation and links to an array of postsecondary options to prepare youth for college and/or career.

**Who is the Point Person for the YES Program?**

Maryam Adalat, Social Work Specialist in the School Linked Services Division is the point of contact for the YES Program. James Wogan, Administrator of School Linked Services is the grant manager.

**What is the role of the CARES After School Program with the YES Program?**

The CARES After School Program will serve as one of the work-based learning placements for the YES Program. Terri Porter, After School Coordinator and David Walters, Garden Educator will serve as the Mt. CARES After School Program contact responsible for work-based learning placements. They will meet monthly with the YES Leadership Team to identify implementation, number of youth served and modification of services.

**What is the role of the Career Academy/Pathway with the YES Program?**

Academy/Pathway Liaisons serve as the contact and advocate for WIA eligible youth within their academy/pathway to support successful academic progress, develop stronger connection to school and preparedness for college/career in school-based career academies/pathways. They will work in partnership with the WIA Social Work Specialist (Maryam Adalat) to ensure ALL WIA eligible students are enrolled and participating in WIA services within in their perspective academy and performing academically and social/emotionally. Mt. Diablo YES will work with academy staff to ensure WIA eligible youth participate fully in academy classes (core and CTE), academy work-based learning opportunities, career related activities and field trip to improve and sustain student engagement and success.

**What types of services will be available through the YES Program?** YES Services are outlined in three Tiers (see graphic to the right), with tier 1 being the first level of support.

**What are Youth Centered Plans?**

Mt. Diablo YES Youth Centered Plans will include comprehensive, individualized career development plans for each participating youth as describe above. Each plan will inform and connect to other existing support plans such as Transition Plans on IEPs, and CFS / ILSP driven transition plans. Career Academy Liaisons will work with WIA Social Work Specialist to help inform the development of the Youth Centered Plan for students within their academy.

**What is the duration of the WIA grant?**

The WIA grant will be entering into the second year of the grant (2015-16 school year) with the hope that it will be extended for an additional year in 2016-2017.

