





## OUR COOP COMMUNITY

Marion County Special Education Cooperative #617 (MCSEC), an Interlocal, serves approximately 420 students in five school districts within Marion County, including: USD 410 Durham-Hillsboro-Lehigh, USD 408 Marion-Florence, USD 398 Peabody-Burns, USD 397 Centre and USD 411 Goessel. MCSEC is an interlocal that offers services for students' birth to age 21.

Marion County has a population of nearly 12,000 with the city of Marion as the County Seat. On the west edge of the Flint Hills, with both a county lake and a 6,000-acre federal reservoir on either side of Marion, there is abundant hunting, fishing, camping and other lake activities within minutes from town. When you find yourself in Marion County, you will find communities enriched with deep historical heritage that are dedicated to preserving the past and embracing the future. Marion County is home to the Hillsboro Arts and Crafts Fair and Marion Art in the Park and community events such as the Marion County Fair, Goessel's Threshing Days and Chingawassa Days in Marion.

Municipal services include volunteer fire departments, police departments, public airports, banks, hospitals, nursing homes and retirement housing, senior citizen centers, doctors, dentists, chiropractors, motels, and churches. Recreational opportunities include three golf courses, tennis courts, baseball and softball complexes, parks, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, walking tracks and fitness centers.

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Letters of inquiry or other questions about the process should be directed to:

Shayla Hodges, Board Clerk  
Marion County Special Education  
Cooperative #617  
1500 E. Lawrence  
Marion, KS 66861  
620-382-2858

## COOP HIGHLIGHTS

MCSEC is a member of the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK). This organization provides the coop with support in the areas of staff development, insurance, and employee assistance programs. Pathway Financial provides section 125 and 403b benefits. We collaborate with four area schools to connect to the internet, each other and colleges for interactive distance learning and online courses through the Technology Excellence in Education Network (TEEN).

MCSEC is the lead and fiscal agent for the Infant Toddler Program in Marion County. We offer early intervention services for families with infants or toddlers ages birth to 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities. We also provide special education services in the Head Start and four-year-old at-risk programs within our counties five preschools.

Education is important to the communities of Marion County. Hillsboro is home to Tabor College, a four-year Christian Liberal Arts college. Marion hosts Butler Community College, a satellite campus that offers a wide variety of classes to Marion County students on site and over the TEEN Network. Kansas Online Learning Program (KOLP) is an online public school open to all full-time kindergarten through 12th grade students living anywhere in Kansas. The program is provided through Centre School District and is tuition free for Kansas families, with only minimal student fees.

In 2017, MCSEC and Tabor College partnered to form Project SEARCH, an educational transition program for older students with disabilities. Our Project SEARCH is a hybrid program that accepts interns from 18-30 years of age. The interns rotate through various departments of the college working in three different internship sites over the school year. Marion County appreciates the opportunity to further serve transition aged students with disabilities.

OASIS Day School (Opportunity, Achievement & Success In Society): With a commitment to providing quality special education services to schools within Marion County, the Special Education Cooperative provides intensive services to students experiencing significant behavioral difficulties and related school failure. OASIS students are 5-21 years of age and have not been successful in a self-contained special education program in the neighborhood schools.

OASIS students demonstrate behaviors and needs, which cannot be met in the traditional school setting. Entrance into OASIS School occurs as a result of thorough planning and consideration by the neighborhood school, the OASIS Administrative Team and the IEP Team, which includes the parent(s). OASIS School is designed to provide a positive learning environment where students can develop their academic task-related behaviors and social skills and work toward a successful return to their neighborhood school setting.