MEXICO EDUCATION CENTER
Board of Education Report

Mr. Mark Holman, Director of Alternative Learning

December 2025

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Mexico Education Center Overview

- **Enrollment:** 37 in-seat, 63 (online) → **100 total**
- **2025–26 Year Total (currently enrolled In-seat students+Mocap students+ dropped to return to inseat 25-26 school yr): 123**

Why Families Choose MEC:

- Personalized learning and flexible scheduling
- Supportive environment for non-traditional learners
- Alternative diploma paths, including HiSET
- Focus on future success through career and college readiness

Families consistently view MEC as a place where students can thrive academically, personally, and professionally.

Current Operations

- **Structure:** Two daily 3-hour sessions, 5 days a week; 2 teachers
- **Expectations:** >90% attendance for most students; 3+ credits per semester; required employment for credit; Edgenuity as main platform

- **Accountability:** Students may be dismissed for poor progress or attendance due to program demand

- **MO-Options:** Coordinated by Mr. Drew Widaman; offers HiSET-based graduation path for eligible students; positively impacts district graduation rate

Reviews & Conferences

- Individual quarterly reviews in October with parent-teacher conferences

- Evaluations include academics, attendance, employment, attitude, and JAG progress

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) Program

- **Purpose:** Grant-funded dropout prevention program teaching life/employability skills

- **Activities 2025–26:** Leadership events, officer meetings, guest speakers, field trips, and service learning

Nov/December JAG Summary – MEC Students

- **Applying for a Job Lesson**
  Students learned how to properly complete job applications, including gathering key personal information, identifying job-related skills, and understanding what employers look for. We also discussed common application mistakes, how to present themselves professionally, and how to follow up after applying.

- **"Find Your Path" – MHS Career Fair**
  Students attended the Mexico High School Career Fair, where they explored a wide range of career fields. They interacted with local employers, industry representatives, and training programs to learn about job requirements, salary expectations, and future opportunities. This event helped students begin thinking about career paths that match their interests and strengths.

- **MACC Campus Tour**
  Students toured Moberly Area Community College and received information about academic programs, financial aid, campus resources, and student services. They had the opportunity to ask questions, meet staff, and get a feel for what attending community college would be like. The tour encouraged students to think about postsecondary education options.

- **Renting & Finances Lessons**
  Students completed practical lessons on budgeting and managing personal finances, including how to compare rental options, understand leases, calculate monthly expenses, and make responsible budgeting decisions. They explored real-life scenarios

to develop financial literacy and prepare for independent living.

- **Thanksgiving Meal with MEC Students**
  Students and staff came together for a Thanksgiving meal to practice gratitude, build community, and strengthen peer relationships. This gathering provided a positive environment for students to reflect on the semester and celebrate accomplishments.

- **Christmas Shopping for Community Kids (Help Center – Mexico, MO)**
  Students participated in a service-learning project by shopping for children connected to the Help Center in Mexico, MO. They worked together to select gifts, manage a budget, and ensure each child's needs were met. This activity emphasized empathy, giving back, and the importance of community involvement during the holiday season.
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Graduate Support: Follow-up services for alumni (employment, FAFSA, college, resources). Mr. Phil Neely currently supports 10 graduates.