

Mountain Secondary School – Student Voice

The following details and informal discussion with a current Mountain Secondary School Student. This student attended Mountain Secondary for two years, opted to enrol at another composite high school in the South ARC cluster for one semester and then returned to Mountain Secondary the following semester. This student agreed to have the details of the conversation shared with others involved in the ARC process. The student requested to remain anonymous.

Question #1: Why did you want to leave Mountain Secondary School to attend a different school

I wanted more of a challenge with my school work. I wanted to meet new people and to try something new.

Question #2: What was it like at the new school? (the teachers, kids, class work, etc...)

- I met a lot of new friends.
- I found that the classes were a lot bigger – there were more students in them, maybe twenty or more in each class.
- None of my teachers knew that I was on an IEP. One of my teachers said about a month after school started that he didn't know and then he saw some sort of a paper that said I did have one. The teachers didn't really do anything different to help me or accommodate me. The only kids, I think, that had help had someone with them – like an EA – all of the time. I wouldn't want that
- I found that the work in class was okay. Not too hard. I could do the work fine.
- I skipped school more. There were more kids around so it was easier to skip. Sometimes I felt that I would skip

because that is what others were doing and it was easier and helped me to fit in. No one (the teachers) really noticed when I wasn't there, they didn't call to find out where I was. I don't know if that was because I lived by myself and they didn't think it was worth to call and just talk to me or not.

- I found that there were so many students at the school that you got missed at times, most of the people and teachers didn't really know you.
- At the other school, if you aren't athletic and into sports or "the arts" there isn't really anything for you to fit in to. There weren't a lot of clubs to join if you weren't into either of those things.

Question #3: Why did you decide to come back to Mountain Secondary?

- There aren't as many people here.
- I can be my own person. I don't always feel like I have to try to fit in with others
- The teachers are easier to talk to if you had a question or needed help with something. (school work or otherwise)