



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Mecklenburg County Detention Center 2021 HiSET Report Highlights the Impact of Educational Programs

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office is pleased to share highlights from the 2021 High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) Report. When comparing the accomplishment of Mecklenburg County Detention Center – Central (MCDCC) HiSET students to that of the State of North Carolina HiSET students, MCDCC residents compare very favorably. In some cases, MCDCC residents scored higher than average:

**MCDCC Average HiSet Scores Per Subject Compared to NC Average HiSet Test Scores**

	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing
<b>MCDCC Avg Score 2021</b>	9.2	9.7	13	12.9	10.4
<b>NC Avg Scores 2020</b>	9.9	9.8	11.6	12.5	10.6

“What makes this even more impressive,” said Dorian Johnson, MCSO Detention Programs Director, “is that MCDCC residents had inconsistent instruction due to the pandemic, separated from family and natural supports, are in an environment which can be difficult to concentrate all while facing the uncertainty of their court process and future.”

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report on Education and Correctional Populations, it is estimated that 47% of those housed in county detention centers have not completed high school or its equivalent, while only 18% of the general population (public) failed to graduate from high school.

The HiSET/GED educational program is a partnership between Central Piedmont Community College and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Residents receive on-site instruction and must take a state test upon completion of the course.

**MCDC Average Graduates HiSet Scores Per Subject Compared to NC Average HiSet Graduates Scores**

	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing	Scaled Scores
<b>MCDC Avg Scores per Subject 2021</b>	12.2	13.3	13.8	14.4	11.5	65.2
<b>HiSet NC Data 2020</b>	13.7	14.8	12.7	13.4	15.5	70.1

*\*The data for MCDCC is based on 10 HiSET graduates in 2021. It should also be noted that a scaled score of 45 is needed to pass*

Sheriff Garry L. McFadden said, "This is very commendable not only for the residents but for MCSO. I'm grateful for our detention staff who ensured the safety and security of everyone involved in the program during very challenging times. Without their efforts, this would not be possible. As an agency, we are contributing to the reduction in recidivism rates through educational programming. I am proud of our program staff who assist these men and women with bettering themselves and I'm proud of the residents who worked hard to achieve their diplomas. It is always rewarding to attend the graduations and remind residents that what happened in their past does not have to define their future."

To learn more about MCSO Adult Programs, visit our [website](#).

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