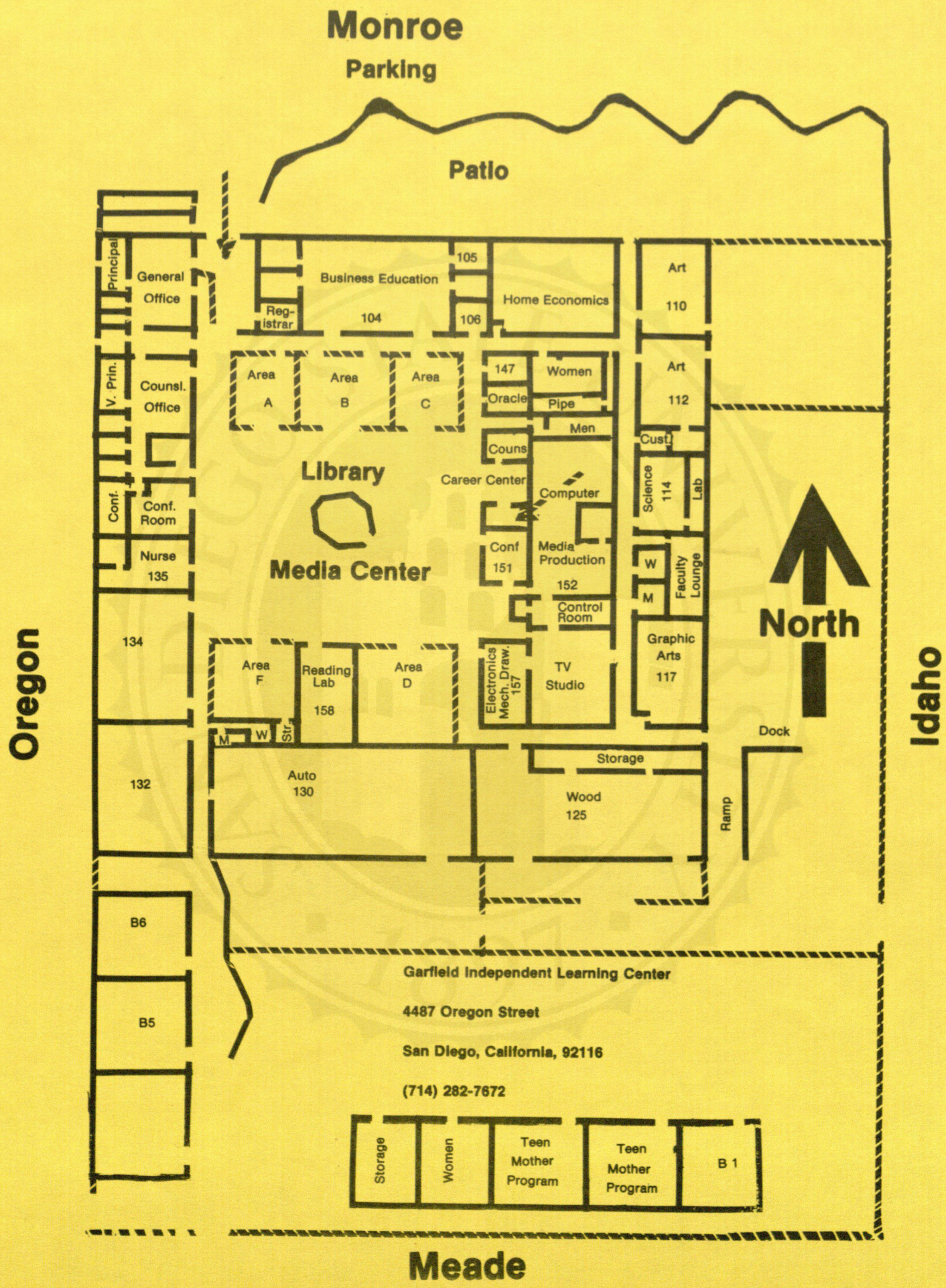
[MS-0234-004-011-004]



Garfield Independent
Learning Center
4487 Oregon St.
San Diego, CA 92116
(714) 282-7672

GARFIELD INDEPENDENT LEARNING CENTER

Status of construction

Construction is complete and all buildings have been occupied. The landscaping has not yet begun.

Teaching stations

Art/Crafts	2
Business Education	1
Consumer & Family Studies	1
General purpose (English, Math, Social Studies)	5
Industrial Education (Auto, Graphics, Wood)	3
Music	1
Reading	1
Science	1
Media Production	1
T.V. Studio	1
Total teaching stations	17

Support facilities

Educational Service Unit (Counseling, Health, Administration)
Media Center
Auxiliary Services

Instructional program

The Garfield Independent Learning Center is a small high school with an enrollment of approximately 500 students. The school population is characterized by a wide range of abilities and diversity of personal problems that are characteristic of many of the students. Garfield is not a neighborhood school. It draws students from practically every junior and senior high school in the city. Many students have rejected the rigidity, competitiveness, and large size of the comprehensive high school and are seeking another form of education, one which will help them complete their requirements for a high school diploma.

Garfield functions as a counseling-oriented high school as compared to the subject-matter orientation of the typical high school. The incoming student meets a counselor, and together they discuss the student's past performance and problems encountered at the former school; together they plan a program suitable to the student's need.

The center offers a completely individualized multi-level program for students in grades nine through twelve. Assignments in classes are based upon individual ability, needs, and interests of each student. The program is based on small

successes. The student then works at his/her own pace to complete the requirements discussed. No failing grades are given.

As a result of a grant of funds from ESEA, Title II, Phase II Project which provided the center with approximately $50,000, the Garfield staff is attempting to follow through with the student needs determined from the results of the Ranking Survey given to a target population two years ago. The most important student needs in order of priority are as follows:

1. Students need to develop a more positive self-image.
2. Students need to work within a structure which allows them to pursue individualized learning in all subject areas.
3. Students need to improve their achievement in reading.
4. Students need to become more aware of career and occupational opportunities, and they need to become adequately prepared with skills necessary to secure a worthwhile job.
5. Students need the assistance of a strong counseling program.

Funding of this project will mean that Garfield will serve as a demonstration center for the other 290 continuation high schools in the State of California. In addition, since the center offers students a successful alternative educational program, it will also serve as an exemplary program for all other schools in the state seeking alternative programs in education. Since September the school has hosted administrators, district counselors, head counselors, high school counselors from our district, members of the State Department of Education, and intern teachers from San Diego State University. Visits from teachers from Sweetwater and from other cities in the state are already being planned for January and February.

The center reached a population of 500 in less than one month's time and found it necessary to open an extended-day program for high school and adult students needing an alternative form of education. Four classes are now available in the afternoon from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All classes are well attended and plans are to expand the offerings.