

ASSURANCE STANDARDS – MISSOURI OPTION PROGRAM

1.0 Program Eligibility Standards

- 1.1 Students enrolled in the Missouri Option Program are exempted from the requirement to earn a specific number of credits for graduation purposes.
- 1.2 Each Missouri Option Program candidate is enrolled as a full-time student in the district in accordance with the criteria prescribed in Assurance Standards 4.2 and 4.3.
- 1.3 Student participation in the Missouri Option Program is voluntary.
- 1.4 Selection criteria for the Missouri Option Program are not ethnic, racial, or gender biased.
- 1.5 Students are 17 years of age or older.
- 1.6 Students are at least one year behind their cohort group in the credits needed to graduate or for other significant reasons identified in the local plan are unable to complete their diploma with their cohort group (class). Cohort is defined as the year that a student enrolled in kindergarten.
- 1.7 In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, students and a parent/guardian will sign a consent form for participation in the Missouri Option Program.
- 1.8 Students served by the Missouri Option Program are able to demonstrate the ability to read independently in English at the 11th grade level sufficient to successfully complete instruction and testing.
- 1.9 Students with disabilities show evidence of a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, which indicates that participation in the Missouri Option Program is appropriate for the student. The IEP or Section 504 Plan documents any special education services and related aids and services necessary for successful completion of the program, including the testing component.
- 1.10 Missouri Option Program participants have access to all educational programs and services available in the school district. For information on the eligibility to participate in high school activities, please contact the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) at email@mshsaa.org or by calling 573-875-4880.

2.0 Program Instructor Standards

- 2.1 Missouri Option Program instructor(s) have a valid Missouri teaching certificate in any subject at any grade level, including an Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) certification.

3.0 Program Counseling Standards

- 3.1 Counselor(s) have a valid Missouri Counseling Certificate.
- 3.2 Guidance and counseling services are provided to Missouri Option students consistent with the high school program.
- 3.3 Ongoing postsecondary and career advisement is provided by the Missouri Option Program instructor(s) and counselor(s), with supplemental guidance and counseling provided as needed.

4.0 Academic Instruction and Assessment Standards

- 4.1 Instructional content is appropriate for 11th grade or higher and aligns with the HiSET® Missouri High School Equivalency Exam sub-tests: Writing, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing and Mathematics.
- 4.2 Missouri Option students are engaged in a minimum of 15 hours of academic instruction per week, which may include computer-assisted instruction.
- 4.3 Missouri Option students are also enrolled in other school-supervised instructional activities (Career Education courses, elective classes, volunteer experiences, work experience, etc.) that lead to the student's classification by the school district as a full-time student.
- 4.4 As prescribed in Section 170.011, RSMo, to be eligible for graduation from high school in Missouri, students satisfactorily pass a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, as well as the electoral process. Students must pass an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions. All students entering grade 9 after July 1, 2017, are required to pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics.
- 4.5 Missouri Option students pass half-unit courses in Personal Finance and Health Education as per 5 CSR 20-100.190. Prior to graduation, all high school students must receive 30 minutes of CPR instruction and training in the proper performance of the Heimlich maneuver. Instruction must be included in the district's existing health or physical education curriculum.
- 4.6 All Missouri Option students participate in appropriate state assessments, including all required End-of-Course (EOC) assessments.
- 4.7 Students are encouraged to enroll in [Missouri Connections](#) for exploration of postsecondary and occupational activities.

5.0 Graduation Standards

- 5.1 All Missouri Option students take and pass the HiSET® exam as a competency-based assessment for a HiSET® score report and complete all of the requirements set forth in these standards to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- 5.2 Student certificates will reflect a regular high school diploma as awarded to all students by local boards of education. Student transcripts will include a *HiSET®* and *Missouri Option Score Report*.
- 5.3 Upon passing the HiSET® exam and fulfilling all Missouri Option and district program requirements, fifth-through seventh-year seniors receive a high school diploma and graduate.
- 5.4 Students who are in the program for other significant reasons and successfully pass the HiSET® exam before the end of the school year are engaged in a school-supervised course of study or employment/volunteer work equivalent to full-time student status (30 hours a week) until the end of the school year, or may be released according to district policy.
- 5.5 The Missouri Option Program does not circumvent compulsory attendance regulations or facilitate an early exit. For information regarding conditions for early exit, please see the [Graduation Requirements for Students in Missouri Public Schools](#), page 7 - **Number of Semesters of Attendance Required**: "Local boards of education may, by policy, permit students who have met all state and local graduation requirements to exit high school earlier than the usual eight semesters."
- 5.6 Graduates of the Missouri Option Program are eligible to participate in a high school graduation ceremony with their peers.