

MISSOURI OPTION PROGRAM ASSURANCE STANDARDS 2016-2017

ASSURANCE STANDARDS MISSOURI OPTION PROGRAM

The administrator(s) and staff at all participating LEA sites are knowledgeable of and agree to comply with the Missouri Option Assurance Standards, as identified below.

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 eleventh grade level sufficiently 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, which may be 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 eleventh grade or higher and aligns with the *HiSET*[®], *Missouri's 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 fifteen (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, and in the electoral process and 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.
- 4.5 Missouri Option students pass a half-unit course in Personal Finance and Health Education as per 5 CSR 20-100.190.
- 4.6 All Missouri Option students participate in appropriate state assessments, including **all required** End of Course (EOCs) assessments - *Algebra I (or Algebra II if Algebra was taken prior to high school)*, *English II*, *Biology* and *American Government*.
- 4.7 Students are enrolled in Missouri Connections: <https://mocis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html> , participate in postsecondary and occupational exploration activities, and complete a Career Portfolio.

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 *HiSET*[®] and *Missouri Option Score Reports*.
- 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 Fourth-year seniors who are in the program for *other significant reasons* and successfully pass the *HiSET*[®] 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 when 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 18.
<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/GraduationHandbook.pdf> .
- 5.6 Graduates of the Missouri Option Program are eligible to participate in a high school graduation ceremony with their peers.