

Health and Education Justice Initiative
Advancing justice in child health and well-being

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: CREDITS AND GRADUATION PLANNING

Did you know? Missouri high school students need a minimum of 24 credit hours to graduate. The credits must include:

- ✓ 4 credits of English language arts
- ✓ 3 credits of Mathematics
- ✓ 3 credits in Science and 3 credits in Social Studies
- ✓ 1 credit for Fine Arts, 1 credit for Practical Arts, and 1 credit for Physical Education
- ✓ a half credit (.5) in Health
- ✓ a half credit (.5) in Personal Finance
- ✓ 7 credits of Electives

To earn one unit of credit, a student must meet all the course requirements and earn a passing grade. Local boards of education may impose additional credit requirements for graduation.

Some Missouri schools may offer dual credit or dual enrollment programs, allowing students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.

Special Considerations

- Local boards of education can establish reasonable, nondiscriminatory policies for determining grade placement of transfer students and recognizing credit from prior schools.
- Local school districts must ensure students with disabilities can earn credits toward graduation in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- Local school districts must ensure credit transfer for foster care youth by accepting previously completed coursework and by ensuring these youth don't lose credit due to absences from placement changes or court activities.

Alternative Options

MO Option Program: Missouri high school students who are at least 17 years old and have fallen at least a year behind their class may be able to earn their diploma by attending class part-time and completing other requirements.

Career and Technical Education Programs: Local boards of education may waive one unit of academic credit for students who complete a three unit career and technical education program of study.

MOCAP: Provides K–12 students with access to a virtual online courses taught by Missouri-certified teachers.

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Community Tipline: 314-256-8789
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