



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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Missouri Option Program

Did you know? 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.

Make sure your school district is on board: Check with the guidance counselor at your school. Not all Missouri high schools participate in the Missouri Option Program.

The requirements: If the school district is participating in the Missouri Option Program, a student needs to do all of the following things to graduate:

- ✓ Attend class at their high school at least 15 hours each week;
- ✓ Enroll in school-supervised career courses, community service or work experience, so that the student is classified as full-time;
- ✓ Pass end-of-course exams for Algebra I, English II, Biology and American Government;
- ✓ Pass required tests about Civics and the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions;
- ✓ Complete courses in Personal Finance and Health;
- ✓ Complete a 30 minute class on how to give medical first aid; AND
- ✓ Take and pass all five content areas of the HiSET test (covering reading, writing, math, science and social studies).

What you will earn: A student who completes these requirements earns a diploma issued by their high school, the same as any other high school graduate. The student can also participate in the school's commencement ceremony, if they wish.

What if I pass the HiSET but don't finish the courses or other requirements? You can use the passing HiSET score to apply for a Missouri High School Equivalency Certificate.

Who *isn't* a good candidate for the MO Option? If you're 21 years old or older, younger than 17 years old, or if your academic skills are far behind your grade level, then the Missouri Option Program may not be the right fit for you.