**Fresh Start Academy @ Sumner High School**

**Missouri Option Program Information**



*The Missouri Option Program permits full-time, public school enrolled students who are at least 17 years of age. These students are at risk of dropping out or not graduating with their cohort group. This gives the student the opportunity to earn a standard high school diploma. Graduation through the Missouri Option Program is not dependent on credit attainment. The Missouri Option Program is competency-based and approved by the State Board of Education. The program utilizes a high school equivalency exam as content mastery for graduation purposes. The exam sanctioned by the state for the Missouri Option program is the* ***HiSET®*** *test. Missouri Option students successfully passing the exam and completing all other program requirements are eligible to receive a high school diploma.*

**Fresh Start Academy Mission**

*The mission of the Fresh Start Academy is to provide students with the opportunity to gain secondary academic and life skills necessary to meet the state of Missouri’s requirements for graduation. Our goal is to equip, empower, and intrinsically motivate our students to become effective in any post-secondary endeavor.*

## **Fresh Start Academy** **4248 West Cottage Ave** **(Located on the Lower Level of Sumner High)** **St. Louis, MO 63113** **314-531-2220**

**Program Director**  
**Dr. Ronda Wallace**

*Graduates of the Missouri Option Program receive a high school diploma from Sumner High School. This diploma is backed by St. Louis Public Schools and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

**Student Eligibility**

Age- Students must be between the ages of 17-20.

Identification- Students must have a valid Missouri ID (an ID is also required to register for the HiSET)

Credits- Students must be at least one year’s credit behind their cohort group (class). Cohort is defined as the year that a student enrolled in kindergarten. Students who were NOT previously enrolled in a St. Louis Public High School, **must** submit a copy of their high school transcripts with their application. (SLPS students are exempt as we can likely access your transcript via Tyler SIS)

Locator- Students **must** have at least a 7th grade reading and math level. There may be exceptions pending the student’s strengths and needs, but those exceptions are uncommon. Grade level is identified by administering a pre-high school equivalency test. *Pre-tests are given after the application has been returned and before enrollment has been approved.*

* The DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) **Missouri Option Assurance Standards require an 12th grade reading level sufficient to successfully complete instruction and testing;** however, permission has been given to SLPS to accept students at a 7th grade reading level, at the discretion of the Fresh Start Academy Testing Coordinators.

**Enrollment Process**

## *The following items are required for each student at the time of registration:*

## Social Security Card Birth Certificate Copy of Immunization Records Proof of City Residence Valid Missouri ID, Permit, or Driver's License

### *\*If applying from any district outside of St. Louis Public Schools, please provide a copy of the student's high school transcript, discipline record, and IEP if applicable.*

* Students, along with their parent(s) or guardian(s), must complete Parts I and II and sign The Missouri Option Program Contract. Applications are filled out in person at Fresh Start Academy.
  + Students *may* need to have their referring school’s guidance counselor complete a referral form, along with a signature from the referring school’s Principal/Dean of Students.
* Once the application has been completed students will return all documents to the Fresh Start Secretary. At this time, students will be instructed to return on a Friday from 8:00am-12:00pm to take a diagnostic test.
  + If students meet the academic standards for Fresh Start Academy (7th grade level), they will be permitted to enroll in the Missouri Option Program.
  + If students do not meet the academic standards for Fresh Start Academy (7th grade level), they will be given information regarding other graduation routes, which may include returning to their original high school to obtain a traditional high school diploma.\*
* If the student has a 504 plan or an IEP, the 504 plan or IEP must indicate that participation in the Missouri Option Program is appropriate for the student. All Special Education Documents will be reviewed by the Fresh Start Academy Special Education teacher before enrollment.

*\*Please advise that anyone 17 years of age or older can schedule the HiSET on their own time, without being enrolled in school. If they pass, they will receive a High School Equivalency Certification (formerly GED) only, NOT a High School Diploma. Successful completion of the Missouri Option Program allows students to obtain a High School Diploma.*

**Acceptance & Phases (I & II) for Graduation**

*Upon acceptance to the Missouri Option Program, students will have their transcripts audited to determine what additional requirements they must complete in order to graduate.*

Phase I– HiSET ($98.75\*)

* The student will be required to take and pass the HiSET exam – this is the exit exam for the program.
* At this point, students will be required to attend all classes daily and study practice materials provided by their instructors.
* Students register for the HiSET with the testing coordinator when they are ready
* This test takes place at Harris Stowe State University
* The student is responsible for their own transportation to and from Harris Stowe University
* Brief overview of the HiSET
  + Language Arts - Writing – 2 parts
    - Part I is an essay
    - Part II has 60 multiple-choice questions
    - 120 total minutes shared between part I and II
  + Language Arts - Reading
    - 50 multiple-choice questions
    - 65 minutes
  + Mathematics – A calculator will be provided for the entire math subtest
    - 55 multiple choice questions
    - 90 minutes
  + Social Studies –
    - 60 multiple choice questions
    - 70 minutes
  + Science –
    - 60 multiple-choice questions
    - 80 minutes

**\*Cost\***

*The Missouri Option Program is free to attend; however, there is a cost associated with the HiSET. The price is $98.75 for all 5 subjects and students are responsible for coming up with the funds for the exam. Debit/Credit cards are the only acceptable form of payment for the HiSET. Retakes can be taken up to 2 more times per subject, per calendar year for $7 each.*

State Fee: $10 (paid annually)

Subject Fee: $17.75 per subject (5 subjects)

Total: $98.75

\*Students can register for one subject at a time; however, we encourage purchasing the entire battery during initial scheduling.

Phase II-Additional Graduation Requirements

*The following items must be completed before a student graduates. If the student has already completed these items, and it is verified on their transcript, they will not need to complete them while enrolled in the Missouri Option Program. All items below will be offered at Fresh Start Academy.*

* You must take the following exams:
  + ACT (free to you ONE time)
  + ACCUPLACER or ASVAB
* The following courses will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis
  + CPR Class
  + Passing score on the Missouri Constitution test
  + Passing score on the US Constitution test
  + ½ credit in a Personal Finance class
  + ½ credit in a Health class
* You **must take the High School level EOCs** (Algebra 1 or 2, Communications Arts, Biology, and Government).

**Daily Student Schedule (Monday-Friday)**   
*Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation. SLPS does not offer school buses for Missouri Option students; however, Fresh Start Academy will provide Metro bus tickets for students daily.*

Morning Session- 8:10am-11:15am

* 1st Block: 8:10am-9:40am
* 2nd Block: 9:45am-11:15am

Afternoon Session- 11:45am-2:50pm

* 1st Block: 11:45am-1:15pm
* 2nd Block: 1:20pm-2:50pm

**Attendance Procedures**

*Students are required to attend 15 hours of academic instruction per week. Students must also participate in 15 additional hours of instructional activities (career education courses, elective classes, work experience, volunteer work, etc.) per week, that lead to the student's classification as a full-time student.*

* If a student is absent, please call the front desk at 314-531-2220. Documentation may be required to verify excused absences.
* If a student has more than 10 unexcused absences, they will be dropped from the program. Re-enrollment may be considered by Fresh Start staff on a case-by-case basis. If dropped from the program and re-enrollment is denied, students may return to the program at the beginning of the next academic semester.

**Each student is allowed to be enrolled in the Missouri Option Program for a maximum of 2 years, if the requirements for graduation are not met in that time, the student will be dropped from the program.**

**Work Requirement**

*Students will be required to have proof of a job, community service, or other supervised activity before they are admitted into the program.*

* Students will be required to work a minimum of 15 hours a week.
* Having a job is not the only option for this requirement, a student may do volunteer work, participate in a club or a sport, as long as it is a supervised out of school activity and gives the student at least 15 hours a week.
* If a student does not abide by this, he or she will be removed from the program

*If finding or having a job or volunteer hours is an issue, please contact the principal to determine if other options are available.*  
  
**Discipline & Behavior**

*Fresh Start Academy operates as a Young Adult Education Program. There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, violence, disruptive behavior, and insubordination.*

* Discipline issues will be handled by the principal and/or Fresh Start staff.
* If discipline issues interfere with the positive learning environment, the student will be removed from The Missouri Option Program.

**Calendar / School Closings**

Fresh Start Academy follows the same exact calendar as the rest of the district. Also, if the district is closed for any reason (bad weather, pipe bursts, etc.), Fresh Start Academy is also closed.

**Graduation**

Students who successfully complete all Missouri Option requirements with Fresh Start Academy will be eligible to participate in a graduation ceremony.

* Students cannot and will NOT walk with their original high school.
* All graduation requirements must be completed before the given deadline (usually mid-May of the anticipated graduation year) to participate in the graduation ceremony.
* Students who do not complete their graduation requirements by the given deadline are still eligible to receive a high school diploma; however, they will be unable to participate in the graduation ceremony.