

Fresh Start Academy @ Sumner High School

Missouri Option Program Information & Application



*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 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
4268 West Cottage
(Located on the Lower Level of Sumner High)
St. Louis, MO 63113
314-531-2220

Dr. Sean Nichols, Principal
sean.nichols@slps.org

Graduates of the Missouri Option Program receive a full 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 should 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 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 11th 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 Testing Coordinators.

Enrollment Process

Students must fill out The Missouri Option Program Application located in the back of this information packet.

- Students, along with their parent(s) or guardian(s), must complete Parts I and II and sign The Missouri Option Program Contract then return it to the secretary.
- Referring school's guidance counselor must complete Part III before sending the student to Fresh Start.
- Once the completed application has been returned, students may schedule a Pre-High School Equivalency 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 while enrolled at Fresh Start Academy allows students to obtain a Sumner 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 2 of the 3 exams:
 - ACT (free to you ONE time)
 - ACCUPLACER (scheduled once a month, TBD) 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). Tentatively scheduled for April 6- May 12, 2023

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 and referred to an Adult Education Center.

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 Sumner High School's 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.

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MISSOURI OPTION PROGRAM APPLICATION AND CONTRACT

This Application MUST be filled out completely. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Part I: To be filled out by the applicant (student) along with the parent(s)/guardian(s) if necessary:

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Student Phone Number: _____ Student e-mail: _____

Does the student currently have an IEP, 504 plan? **YES or NO** (circle one)

If the student has an IEP, who is their case manager? _____

Does the student use any language other than English? **YES or NO** (circle one) Specify language: _____

Is the student currently in Missouri Children's Division (DFS) custody, or residing in a foster home/residential facility? **YES or NO** (circle one)

Caseworker Name: _____ Caseworker Phone Number: _____

Is the student currently living with a parent or legal guardian? **YES or NO** (circle one)

If no, please explain the student's current housing situation/where the student is living:

Please provide the name(s) and phone contact(s) of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) (if you are your own, please mark that)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell or Work phone: _____

Name of Emergency Contact/Relation to Student: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell or Work Phone: _____

Does the student have any medical conditions that we need to be aware of? **YES or NO** (circle one)

If yes, please list (be sure to turn in the proper medical forms to the nurse as well):

Please provide proof of employment/volunteer work and a copy of the student's transcript with this application

Part II: To be filled out completely by the student/applicant

Please answer each question completely and LEGIBLY!

Why do you feel you are a good candidate for the Missouri Option Program @ Fresh Start Academy?

What difficulties have you experienced in the past that have stopped you from succeeding?

What do you feel are your strengths and weaknesses?

Which session would the student prefer? Please circle one (Student's preference will be taken into consideration, however if the session is full they will be enrolled in the other session)

Morning (8:10-11:15) Afternoon (11:45– 2:50)

What is the student's plan for transportation to and from the program?

Student's plan for achieving the 15-hour work requirement:

Please state where the student is working or volunteering:

Please provide proof of employment/volunteer work and a copy of the student's transcript with this application

Part III: To be fully completed by the referring/prior school's guidance counselor BEFORE sending

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Cohort Graduation Date: _____

Referring/Prior School: _____

Counselor: _____ Phone extension: _____

Current total credits: _____

Please answer **YES or NO** to the following questions:

1. Has the student ever been retained? If so, how many years and when? _____

2. Is the student presently under suspension or expulsion from another school or district for violating school board policies relating to weapons, alcohol, drugs, willful infliction of injury to another person? _____

If yes, please describe:

3. Does the student currently have a Deputy Juvenile Officer (DJO) assigned to them? _____

DJO Name: _____ DJO Phone Number: _____

4. Is the student currently enrolled in their home school? _____

5. Have all appropriate district intervention steps been taken BEFORE referring the student to Fresh Start Academy? Please list those intervention steps and the outcome (*please advise, Missouri Option should only be referred as a last resort, after all appropriate district intervention steps have failed*):

6. The Missouri Option application and contract is completed and signed by both student and parent/guardian with appropriate contact information _____

Student's plan for achieving the 15 hour work requirement (be specific as to where the student is working or volunteering):

Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal/Dean Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please provide proof of employment/volunteer work and a copy of the student's transcript with this application

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Fresh Start Academy Missouri Option Program Contract

Student Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian (please print): _____

1. Students will follow all rules of Fresh Start Academy. By signing this contract, you are stating that you have read and understand the student code of conduct and all rules and regulations (copies of both may be obtained at parent's request from the main office).
2. By signing this contract you are stating that you have read, understand, and will abide by the rules and guidelines outlined in the Missouri Option Program information packet, especially the sections listed below:
 - Acceptance & Phases for Graduation
 - Attendance Procedures
 - Work Requirement
 - Discipline & Behavior
 - Graduation
3. The student agrees to do all work assigned by the instructor, stay on task, and not disrupt other students during work times.
 - If the student disobeys a request by the instructor, is off task, or disrupts other students, the instructor reserves the right to remove the student from class that day.
 - If the student continues to be off task, not complete the work assigned by the instructor, or disrupts other students, a meeting will be held with the student's parent/guardian to discuss consequences up to and including being dropped from the program.

PARENTS / GUARDIANS (if necessary):

I give consent for _____ to be enrolled in Fresh Start Academy's Missouri Option Program. I have read and understand these guidelines and will encourage my child to follow them.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT:

I have read and understand the guidelines for the Missouri Option Program. I understand that if I violate these policies I will be dropped from the program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____