

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

Missouri Policy Report

Introduction

PURPOSE

A combination of well-designed policies give all students access to the broadest range of educational opportunities, including key core policies and helpful policy enhancers. The purpose of this document is to provide insight to how well your state is doing at implementing the Ecosystem of School Choice Policies. This state report summarizes evidence across the seven policy buckets, with each policy component detailed in individual cells.

CORE POLICIES

Key policies expand student opportunities.



[Open Enrollment](#)



[Charter Schools](#)



[Private School Choice](#)



[Homeschooling](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS

Supporting policies enhance those opportunities.



[Part-time Enrollment/Course Access](#)



[Learn Everywhere](#)



[Transportation](#)

CORE POLICIES



Open Enrollment in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Transfers Between Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Sending and/or receiving districts have discretion over transfers</p>	<p>Missouri Statutes relating to residency provide certain exceptions to attending school within the residence district, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may attend a school outside of their district of residence as part of an interdistrict transfer program established under a court-ordered desegregation program. <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.020 Registration requirements – homeless child or youth defined – residency – hardship waiver – recovery of costs, when – records to be requested, provided, when – military relocation, remote registration permitted)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may attend school outside of their district of residence when they have an “unusual or unreasonable transportation hardship because of natural barriers, travel time, or distance.” <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.121 Assignment of pupil to another district, when – tuition, how paid, amount)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School districts also have discretion to admit school students not entitled to free instruction and require the student to pay tuition. • For any current owner of residential real property or agricultural real property or a named beneficiary of a trust that currently owns residential real property or agricultural real property and that pays a school tax in a district or districts other than the district in which such current owner or beneficiary resides, may send up to four of such owner’s or beneficiary’s children to a public school, excluding a charter school, in any district in which the owner or trust pays the school tax. The owner or beneficiary may not send their child to a district outside of the county in which they currently reside. • Students may attend school in districts other than their districts of residence where the student’s parent is teaching in the school district or is a regular employee of the school district provided the student pays tuition and where the attending school district has an enrollment in excess of 13,000 and not in excess of

		<p>15,000 and the district is located in a county with a charter form of government which has a population in excess of 600,000 persons and not in excess of 900,000 persons.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.151 Admission of nonresident and other tuition pupils – certain pupils exempt from tuition – school tax credited against tuition – owners of agricultural land in more than one district, options, notice required, when – teachers, childre)</p> <p>Missouri Statute provides for student transfers to districts outside of the student’s district of residence where a district does not maintain a high school offering work through the twelfth grade.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged)</p>
<p>Transfers Within Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>School officials can block transfers</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that the school boards of each school district with multiple attendance centers containing the same grade levels must develop a policy regarding the transfer of that school district’s students to other schools within the district.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 162.1190 Multiple attendance centers for same grade level, board to have policy for transfer of students)</p> <p>Missouri Statute allows students to transfer to another public school in the student’s district of residence if the student is enrolled in and has attended, for the full semester immediately prior to request the transfer, an attendance center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that is located within an unaccredited district; and • that has an annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited. <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.895 Student transfer to another public school, when – definitions – lack of capacity at attendance centers, options – requirements)</p> <p>Missouri Statute provides for enrollment option plans, where 2 school districts establish a cooperative agreement to send or receive or send and receive each other’s students, subject to certain limitations. The State Board was required to promulgate rules to implement this program.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 162.1040, et al. Elementary and Secondary School District Enrollment Option Act)</p>

<p>Year-round Transfer Window</p>	<p>NO No policy</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not establish transfer windows to allow students to move schools year-round.</p>
<p>Tuition-Free Public Schools</p>	<p>LIMITED Tuition can be charged</p>	<p>For students that transfer due to unusual or unreasonable transportation hardships, the board of education for the district in which the student lives must pay the tuition of the student assigned.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.121 Assignment of pupil to another district, when – tuition, how paid, amount)</p> <p>For students who transfer to an accredited public high school in another district of the same or adjoining county due to their own district not maintaining a high school offering work through the twelfth grade, the board of education must pay the student’s tuition.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged)</p> <p>School districts that choose to admit students who are not residents of the district may require parents to pay tuition.</p> <p>For students attending school in a district that is not their resident district because of ownership or beneficiaries of trusts with residential real property or agricultural real property, tuition need not be paid by the parent.</p> <p>Students may attend school in districts other than their districts of residence where the student’s parent is teaching in the school district or is a regular employee of the school district provided the student pays tuition and where the attending school district has an enrollment in excess of 13,000 and not in excess of 15,000 and the district is located in a county with a charter form of government which has a population in excess of 600,000 persons and not in excess of 900,000 persons.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.151 Admission of nonresident and other tuition pupils – certain pupils exempt from tuition – school tax credited against tuition – owners of agricultural land in more than one district, options, notice required, when – teachers, childre)</p>
<p>School Capacity Transparency</p>	<p>NO No transparency policy</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not address school districts publicly reporting capacity by school and grade level.</p>

<p>Transfer Data Transparency</p>	<p>NO No transparency in data reporting</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not require the state to collect and publicly report district-level open enrollment data.</p>
<p>Transparent Appeal Process</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not provide for appeals of districts’ denials of transfer.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 162.1040, et al. Elementary and Secondary School District Enrollment Option Act](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 162.1190 Multiple attendance centers for same grade level, board to have policy for transfer of students](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.020 Registration requirements – homeless child or youth defined – residency – hardship waiver – recovery of costs, when – records to be requested, provided, when – military relocation, remote registration permitted](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.121 Assignment of pupil to another district, when – tuition, how paid, amount](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.151 Admission of nonresident and other tuition pupils – certain pupils exempt from tuition – school tax credited against tuition – owners of agricultural land in more than one district, options, notice required, when – teachers, children](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.895 Student transfer to another public school, when – definitions – lack of capacity at attendance centers, options – requirements](#)

State Department of Education

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Enrollment, Residency & Student Enrollment](#)



Charter Schools in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Multiple Charter Authorizers</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>No real authorizer options</p>	<p>Missouri Statute limits charter schools to the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a metropolitan school district; • In an urban school district containing most or all of a city with a population greater than 350,000 inhabitants; • In a school district that has been classified as unaccredited by the state board of education; • In a school district that has been classified as provisionally accredited by the state board of education and has received scores on its annual performance report consistent with a classification of provisionally accredited or unaccredited for 3 consecutive school years beginning with the 2023-13 accreditation under certain conditions; or • In a school district that has been accredited without provisions, sponsored only by the local school board, provided certain conditions are met. <p>The following entities may be sponsors of charter schools under the law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school board of the district in any district which is sponsoring a charter school, the special administrative board of a metropolitan school district, or a special administrative board appointed by the state board; • A public 4-year college or university with an approved teacher education program that meets regional or national standards of accreditation; • A community college, the service area of which encompasses some portion of the district; • Any private four-year college or university with an enrollment of at least one thousand students, primary campus must be in Missouri, and it must have an approved teacher preparation program; • Any two-year private vocational or technical school designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Missouri charter public school commission, created in Statute. <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.400 Charter schools, defined, St. Louis City and Kansas City school districts – sponsors – use of public school buildings – organizations of charter schools – affiliations with college or university – criminal background check required)</p>
<p>Charter Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Independent appeals process</p>	<p>The sponsor’s decision of approval or denial must be made within 90 days of the sponsor receiving the application of the proposed charter. If denied, the sponsor must notify the applicant in writing and include the reasons for the denial. This must be forwarded to the State Board within 5 business days following the denial.</p> <p>If denied, the proposed charter may be submitted to the State Board. If the State Board decides the application should have been approved, the State Board may grant the charter and act as sponsor of the charter school. The State Board will have 60 days to make this decision.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.405 Proposed charter, how submitted, requirements, submission to state board, powers and duties – approval, revocation, termination – definitions – lease of public school facilities, when – unlawful reprisal, defined, prohibited – perfo)</p>
<p>Charter Regulatory Flexibility</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Some or no exemptions</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that charter schools must comply with laws and regulations of the state, county, or city relating to health, safety, and state minimum educational standards, including requirements relating to student discipline, notification of criminal conduct to law enforcement authorities, academic assessments, transmittal of school records, the minimum amount of school time, and the employee criminal history background check and family care safety registry check.</p> <p>Generally, charter schools are exempt from all laws and rules relating to schools, governing boards, and school districts. Missouri Statute is silent on exemption from teacher certification and collective bargaining requirements.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.405 Proposed charter, how submitted, requirements, submission to state board, powers and duties – approval, revocation, termination – definitions – lease of public school facilities, when – unlawful reprisal, defined, prohibited – perfo)</p> <p>Missouri Statute further provides that charter schools have discretion to employ noncertificated instructional personnel – however, no more than 20% of the full-time equivalent instructional staff positions may be filled by noncertificated personnel.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.420 Employment provisions – school district personnel may accept charter school position and remain district employees, effect – noncertificated instructional personnel, employment, supervision)</p>

<p>Equitable Charter Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED Disparities exist</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that, for the purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid, students enrolled in a charter school will be included in the student enrollment of the school district within which each student resides.</p> <p>School districts having one or more resident students attending a charter school must pay to the charter school an annual amount equal to the product of the charter school’s weighted average daily attendance and the state adequacy target, multiplied by the dollar value modifier for the district, plus local tax revenues per weighted average daily attendance from the incidental and teachers’ funds in excess of the performance level, plus all other state aid attributable to such students.</p> <p>The district of residence of a student attending a charter school must pay to the charter school any other federal or state aid that the district receives on account of the student.</p> <p>Charter schools are also eligible for transportation state aid.</p> <p>In addition to any state aid remitted to charter schools in this law, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education will also remit funding, based on a formula established in statute.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.415 Distribution of state school aid for charter schools – powers and duties of governing body of charter schools – performance report)</p>
<p>Charter Facilities Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED Some or no facilities funding</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that charter schools may incur debt in anticipation of receipt of funds and may borrow to finance facilities and other capital items. School districts may incur bond indebtedness or take other measures to provide for physical facilities.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.415 Distribution of state school aid for charter schools – powers and duties of governing body of charter schools – performance report)</p> <p>Missouri also allows charter schools to access bonds through the Missouri Health and Educational Facilities Authority.</p>
<p>Options for High-Performing Charters</p>	<p>LIMITED No opportunities for high-performing charter schools</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that high-quality charter schools must be provided with “expedited opportunities to replicate and expand into unaccredited districts, a metropolitan district, or an urban school district...”</p> <p>These charter schools may also be eligible for a renewal of their charter with a term of 10 years. Other charter terms are for 5 years.</p>

		(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.408 High-quality school, defined, replication in unaccredited districts)
<p>Charter Zoning Exemptions</p>	<p>LIMITED Less than full protections</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not address charter school exemptions from local zoning and ordinances as in other traditional public schools.</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.400 Charter schools, defined, St. Louis City and Kansas City school districts – sponsors – use of public school buildings – organizations of charter schools – affiliations with college or university – criminal background check required](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.405 Proposed charter, how submitted, requirements, submission to state board, powers and duties – approval, revocation, termination – definitions – lease of public school facilities, when – unlawful reprisal, defined, prohibited – perfo](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.408 High-quality school, defined, replication in unaccredited districts](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.415 Distribution of state school aid for charter schools – powers and duties of governing body of charter schools – performance report](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.420 Employment provisions – school district personnel may accept charter school position and remain district employees, effect – noncertificated instructional personnel, employment, supervision](#)

State Department of Education

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Charter Schools](#)



Private School Choice in Missouri

POLICY	OVERALL RATING	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
<p>Universal Eligibility</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Eligibility less than 100%</p>	<p>The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is established in Missouri Statute. There are several limitations to student eligibility for this program.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.712, et al. Missouri Empower Scholarship Accounts Program Tax Credit)</p> <p>Missouri Statute defines “qualified student” to mean an elementary or secondary school student who is a resident of the state who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an approved IEP developed under the IDEA; or • Is a member of a household whose total annual income does not exceed an amount equal to 300% of the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced price lunches, and meets one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one semester during the previous twelve months; or ○ is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade; or ○ A sibling of a qualified student who received a scholarship in the previous school year and will receive a scholarship grant in the current school year. <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.700 Definitions)</p>
<p>Comparable Student Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Funding below 90%</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that students receive a grant amount that does not exceed the state adequacy target. Amendments in 2024 provide that students with limited English proficiency must receive no more than 160% of the state adequacy target; students who receive free or reduced-price lunch must receive no more than 125% of the state adequacy target; and students with an IEP must receive no more than 175% of the state adequacy target.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature (2024))</p> <p>Educational Assistance Organizations determine ESA amounts, up to the annual state adequacy target, which was \$6,375 in 2022-23.</p>

		<p>(Missouri State Treasurer, Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Tax Credit Program – Guidelines for Educational Assistance Organizations)</p> <p>EdChoice explains that this totals 52% of the maximum account value as a percentage of public school per-student spending.</p> <p>(EdChoice, The ABCs of School Choice: Missouri (2024 Edition))</p> <p>In 2025, Missouri legislators appropriated \$50 million to enhance the original source of tax-credit funding.</p> <p>(House Bill 2025-12)</p>
<p>Uncapped Student Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Funding or enrollment cap</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing to educational assistance organizations in any one calendar year may not exceed \$75 million, of which the amount must be annually adjusted by the state treasurer in an amount equal to the percent increase or decrease in the amount of state aid distributed to school districts pursuant to statute.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.713 Educational assistance organization contribution tax credit – amount, procedure – effective, when, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature (2024))</p>
<p>Extended Application Window</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Parents establish Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts for students by entering into a written agreement with an educational assistance organization.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal – withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents; see also Missouri State Treasurer, MOScholars – Parents and Students)</p>
<p>Student Testing Options</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Missouri Statute requires participating students to take the state achievement tests or nationally norm-referenced tests to measure learning gains in math and English language arts, and provide for value-added assessment, in grades that require testing under the statewide assessment system.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.714 Educational assistance organization duties – annual audit – duties of state treasurer)</p>

<p>School Autonomy</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Missouri Statute makes clear that these statutes “shall not be construed to permit any governmental agency to exercise control or supervision over any qualified school in which a qualified student enrolls other than a qualified school that is a public school.”</p> <p>Qualified schools are not required to “alter its creed, practices, admissions policy, or curriculum in order to accept students whose parents pay tuition or fees from a Missouri empowerment scholarship account to participate as a qualified school.”</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.720 Government control or supervision over qualified schools prohibited, when – qualified schools not agents of state – transfer of student, effect of)</p>
<p>Accessible School Participation</p>	<p>LIMITED Accreditation requirement</p>	<p>Choice funds through the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship program may be used for tuition at qualified schools, as well as private virtual schools. Qualified schools include a family paced education school (FPE school) (previously home school), a charter school, a private school, a public school, or a public or private virtual school.</p> <p>Private schools are further defined to mean schools that are not part of the public school system of the state of Missouri and that charges tuition for the rendering of elementary or secondary educational services.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal, withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents; Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.700 Definitions, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature (2024))</p> <p>Guidance on the Missouri State Treasurer website indicates that all schools, other than home schools, must be accredited through an approved accrediting association to be eligible to participate.</p> <p>(Missouri State Treasurer, MOScholars - Schools)</p>
<p>ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending</p>		
<p>Freedom to Customize</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program provides funding through a qualified student’s scholarship account, which may be used for the following expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tuition or fees at a qualified school; • textbooks required by a qualified school; • educational therapies or services from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider; • tutoring services;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • curriculum; • tuition or fees for a private virtual school; • fees for a nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test, advanced placement examinations, international baccalaureate examinations, or any examinations related to college or university admission; • fees for management of the Missouri empowerment scholarship account by firms selected by the educational assistance organization; • services provided by a public school, which may include individual classes and extracurricular programs; • computer hardware or other technological devices used to help meet a student’s educational needs; • fees for summer education programs and specialized after-school education programs; • transportation costs to and from a qualified school. <p>Missouri statute also prohibits the following use of funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumable educational supplies, which may include paper, pens, pencils, or markers; • tuition at a private school outside of the state; and • payments or reimbursements to any person related within a third degree of consanguinity or affinity to a qualified student. <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal, withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents)</p> <p>Missouri previously operated the Close the Gap microgrant program, enabling parent-directed spending on an array of education-related expenses. Up to \$1,500 was available for each participating public school student, with smaller awards given to households that did not qualify for federal free or reduced-price lunch assistance. All funds were to be spent by June 1, 2024.</p> <p>FAQs for the Missouri Close the Gap Grant (closethegapmo.com)</p>
<p>Freedom to Access</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Choice funds through the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship program may be used for tuition at qualified schools, as well as private virtual schools. Qualified schools include a family paced education school (FPE school) (formerly home school), a charter school, a private school, a public school, or a public or private virtual school.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal, withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents; Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.700 Definitions, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature (2024))</p>

<p>Carry-Over Funding</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts are renewable on an annual basis upon request of the parent. Students who previously qualified for a scholarship account are to remain eligible to apply for renewal until the student completes high school and submits required information to the state.</p> <p>Statute specifies that any funds remaining in a student’s scholarship account at the end of the school year must remain in the account and may not be returned to the educational assistance organization.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal, withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents)</p>
<p>Tax Credits</p>		
<p>Full Tax Credit</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program established in Missouri Statute provides for a 100% tax credit for any taxpayer who makes a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization. The amount of the tax credit may not exceed 50% of the taxpayer’s state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed.</p> <p>((Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.713 Educational assistance organization contribution tax credit – amount, procedure – effective, when, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature (2024)); Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.715 Tax credit, annual increase to cumulative amount to cease, when – limitation on number of organizations – board established, members, powers and duties – deposit of moneys in fund - definition)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.700 Definitions, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature \(2024\)](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.705 Missouri empowerment scholarship account, written agreement, contents – renewal – withdrawal from program, effect of – moneys tax exempt to parents](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 166.720 Government control or supervision over qualified schools prohibited, when – qualified schools not agents of state – transfer of student, effect of](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.712, et al. Missouri Empower Scholarship Accounts Program Tax Credit](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.713 Educational assistance organization contribution tax credit – amount, procedure – effective, when, as amended by Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature \(2024\)](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.714 Educational assistance organization duties – annual audit – duties of state treasurer](#)

[Senate Bill 727, Missouri Legislature \(2024\)](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 135.715 Tax credit, annual increase to cumulative amount to cease, when – limitation on number of organizations – board established, members, powers and duties – deposit of moneys in fund - definition](#)

Other resources

[Missouri State Treasurer, Missouri’s K-12 Scholarship Program](#)

[Missouri State Treasurer, MOScholars - Schools](#)

[Missouri State Treasurer, MOScholars – Parents and Students](#)

[Missouri State Treasurer, Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Tax Credit Program – Guidelines for Educational Assistance Organizations](#)

[EdChoice, The ABCs of School Choice: Missouri \(2024 Edition\)](#)



Homeschooling in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Homeschool without Prior Approval</p>	<p>YES No permission required</p>	<p>Missouri’s compulsory attendance laws allow parents to homeschool their children. The compulsory attendance laws do not require parents to receive permission from a local school board or other administrative body prior to beginning a home school program.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excised – home school, definition, requirements – school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined)</p>
<p>No Extra Homeschool Notifications</p>	<p>YES One-time or no notification</p>	<p>Missouri’s compulsory attendance laws do not require parents to provide notification to local or state officials regarding their intent to homeschool. Missouri Statute provides that the production of a daily log showing that a home school has a course of instruction which satisfies the requirements for compulsory attendance, or a written statement the student is attending a home school if the student is over 16 years old who attended a metropolitan school district will be a defense to prosecution and to any charge or action for educational neglect.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excised – home school, definition, requirements – school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined)</p> <p>Further, parents may, but are not required to, provide to the recorder of deeds of the county where the child legally resides, or to the chief school officer of the public school district where the child legally resides, a signed, written declaration of enrollment stating an intent to home school their child – this can be done within 30 days after the establishment of the home school and every year by September 1.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.042 Home school, declaration of enrollment, contents – filing with recorder of deeds or chief school officer – fee)</p>
<p>No Certification to Homeschool</p>	<p>YES No certification requirement</p>	<p>Missouri Statute does not provide for certification requirements for parents who choose to homeschool their children.</p>

<p>Flexible Assessment Options</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Flexible academic accountability</p>	<p>Missouri Statute requires parents to maintain the following information regarding their students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in; and • A portfolio of samples of the child’s academic work; and • A record of evaluations of the child’s academic progress; or other written, or credible evidence equivalent to those listed above. <p>Parents must offer at least 1,000 hours of instruction, at least 600 of which must be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excused – home school, definition, requirements – school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined)</p>
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SOURCE CITATIONS

<p>Statutes</p> <p>Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excused – home school, definition, requirements – school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined</p> <p>Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.042 Home school, declaration of enrollment, contents – filing with recorder of deeds or chief school officer – fee</p>	<p>State Department of Education</p> <p>Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Homeschool</p>
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POLICY ENHANCERS



Part-time Enrollment in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Resident Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>By type of student or type of course or district policy</p>	<p>The Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education webpage for compulsory attendance notes that many local boards of education have adopted policies on part-time attendance. This is not required of all districts and schools are not required to make changes to accommodate students wishing to attend part-time.</p> <p>(Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Compulsory Attendance Law)</p> <p>Missouri compulsory attendance laws allow home school students to enroll part-time in other schools, so long as at least 400 of the 600 hours required of instruction occurs at the regular home school location.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excused – nonattendance, penalty – home school, definition, requirements, school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined)</p> <p>Missouri Statute provides that school boards may establish part-time schools or classes for students under 17 years old who are lawfully engaged in regular employment.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.051 Compulsory attendance of part-time schools)</p>
<p>Nonresident Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Districts only serve resident students or can impose other restrictions</p>	<p>Missouri policy does not address part-time enrollment in public school courses outside their district of residence.</p>

<p>Virtual Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Missouri Statute creates the Course Access and Virtual School Program. This program must offer “nonclassroom-based instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, or internet methods of communication.” This program is accessible to any student in grades K-12 who reside in the state and are eligible to participate.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 161.670 Course access and virtual school program established, eligibility for enrollment – state aid calculation – enrollment process, payment by district – instructional activities, requirements – department duties, annual report – rulemak)</p> <p>The Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education webpage for the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) indicates that the state is in the process of developing a course catalog of virtual online courses for students statewide.</p>
<p>Extracurricular Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>SB 63, passed in 2025, states that school districts or charter schools cannot prohibit any ESA, home school, or virtual school student from participating in athletics, fine arts activities, integrated cocurricular activities in which the student lives. Students do not have to take courses at the school district or charter school to participate. Private school students who haven't received an ESA, however, were not included in this bill and school districts and charters are not required to allow them to participate.</p> <p>(Senate Bill 2025-63)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 161.670 Course access and virtual school program established, eligibility for enrollment – state aid calculation – enrollment process, payment by district – instructional activities, requirements – department duties, annual report – rulemak](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.031 School attendance compulsory, who may be excused – nonattendance, penalty – home school, definition, requirements, school year defined – daily log, defense to prosecution – compulsory attendance age for the district defined](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.051 Compulsory attendance of part-time schools](#)

State Department of Education

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Compulsory Attendance Law](#)

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, About MOCAP](#)

Other Resources

[MSHSAA, Eligibility Standards \(updated July 1, 2023\)](#)



Learn Everywhere in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Provider Qualification Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	<p>Missouri has not created a Learn Everywhere program.</p>
Course Credit Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Core Course Opportunities	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Central State List	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	



Transportation in Missouri

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Open Enrollment Transit</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than equitable and/or for some students only</p>	<p>Missouri Statute requires districts to provide transportation to open enrollment students who attend school outside of their district of residence due to unusual or unreasonable transportation hardship because of natural barriers, travel time, or district.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.241 Transportation of pupils to another district – approved charter school transportation; see Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.121 Assignment of pupil to another district, when – tuition, how paid, amount)</p> <p>For students who transfer to an accredited public high school in another district of the same or adjoining county due to their own district not maintaining a high school offering work through the twelfth grade, the board of education must provide transportation for the student. Transportation is limited only to those school districts accredited by the State Board.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.241 Transportation of pupils to another district – approved charter school transportation; see Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged)</p> <p>For students attending school in a district that is not their resident district because of ownership or beneficiaries of trusts with residential real property or agricultural real property, neither the resident nor nonresident district will be responsible for providing transportation services.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.151 Admission of nonresident and other tuition pupils – certain pupils exempt from tuition – school tax credited against tuition – owners of agricultural land in more than one district, options, notice required, when – teachers, childre)</p>

<p>Fair Transportation Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p>	<p>Charter School Students Charter schools are eligible for transportation state aid and charter schools may contract with local districts, or any other entity, to provide transportation to students.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.415 Distribution of state school aid for charter schools – powers and duties of governing body of charter schools – performance report)</p> <p>Private School Students Missouri policy does not provide for transportation services for private school students.</p>
<p>Vehicle Flexibility</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Missouri Statute provides that motor vehicles other than school buses may be used to transport students, but the passenger load must be no more than the manufacturer suggests as appropriate for such vehicle and meet any additional requirements of the school district.</p> <p>(Mo. Rev. Stat. 304.060 School buses and other district vehicles, use to be regulated by board – field trips in common carriers, regulation authorized – violation by employee, effect – St. Louis County buses may use word “special”)</p> <p>Missouri Administrative Rules provide for minimum requirements for school buses. Rules provide that vehicles with a rated capacity to carry more than 10 students that are used to transport students to or from school or school purposes must meet state and federal specification and safety standards. Rules also provide for certain requirements for transporting students in vehicles designed for transporting 10 or less passengers.</p> <p>(5 CSR 30-261.045 Pupil Transportation in Vehicles Other Than School Buses)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 160.415 Distribution of state school aid for charter schools – powers and duties of governing body of charter schools – performance report](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.121 Assignment of pupil to another district, when – tuition, how paid, amount](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.151 Admission of nonresident and other tuition pupils – certain pupils exempt from tuition – school tax credited against tuition – owners of agricultural land in more than one district, options, notice required, when – teachers, childre](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.241 Transportation of pupils to another district – approved charter school transportation; see Mo. Rev. Stat. 167.131 District not maintaining a high school through twelfth grade shall pay tuition and transportation, when – amount charged](#)

[Mo. Rev. Stat. 304.060 School buses and other district vehicles, use to be regulated by board – field trips in common carriers, regulation authorized – violation by employee, effect – St. Louis County buses may use word “special”](#)

Administrative Code

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Student Transportation](#)

[Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, 2020 Missouri Minimum Standards for School Buses](#)

State Department of Education

[5 CSR 30-261.045 Pupil Transportation in Vehicles Other Than School Buses](#)

