

SENATE BILL NO. 34

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ARTHUR.

0885S.02I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapters 160 and 161, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to alternative pathways to graduation for high school students.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapters 160 and 161, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 160.560 and 161.385, to read as follows:

160.560. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish the "Show Me Success Diploma Program".

2. Under the show me success diploma program, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop the "Show Me Success Diploma" as an alternative pathway to graduation for high school students that may be earned at any point between the end of a student's tenth grade year and the conclusion of the student's twelfth grade year.

3. By July 1, 2022, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop detailed requirements for students to become eligible for the show me success diploma that include at least the following:

(1) Demonstrated skills and knowledge in English, science, and mathematical literacy to be successful in college level courses offered by the community colleges in

18 this state that count toward a degree or certificate without
19 taking remedial or developmental coursework; and

20 (2) Satisfactory grades on approved examinations in
21 subjects determined to be necessary to prepare a student to
22 enter postsecondary education without remedial or
23 developmental coursework.

24 4. School districts and charter schools may offer a
25 course of study designed to meet the requirements to obtain
26 a show me success diploma to students entering the ninth
27 grade. Students who elect to pursue a show me success
28 diploma shall participate in a course of study designed by
29 the school district to meet the requirements established
30 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section. The show me
31 success diploma shall be available to any such student until
32 the end of that student's twelfth grade year.

33 5. Students who earn a show me success diploma may
34 remain in high school and participate in programs of study
35 available through the school district or charter school
36 until that pupil would otherwise have graduated at the end
37 of grade twelve. For purposes of calculation and
38 distribution of state aid, the school district or charter
39 school of a pupil having earned a show me success diploma
40 who remains enrolled in the school district or charter
41 school shall continue to include the pupil in the pupil
42 enrollment of each such school district or charter school
43 and shall continue to receive funding for a pupil who earns
44 a show me success diploma until that pupil would otherwise
45 have graduated at the end of grade twelve. Students who
46 elect to remain in high school pursuant to this subsection
47 shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular
48 activities, including interscholastic sports, through the
49 end of grade twelve.

50 6. Students who pursue but do not meet the eligibility
51 requirements for a show me success diploma at the end of
52 grade ten or eleven shall receive a customized program of
53 assistance during the next school year that addresses areas
54 in which the student demonstrated deficiencies in the course
55 requirements. Students may choose to return to a
56 traditional academic program without completing the show me
57 success diploma.

58 7. The department of elementary and secondary
59 education shall provide training, guidance, and assistance
60 to teachers and administrators of the schools offering the
61 show me success diploma and shall closely monitor the
62 progress of the schools in the development of the program.

63 8. Pupils who earn a show me success diploma and do
64 not remain enrolled in the district or charter school and
65 instead enroll, or show proof that they will enroll, in a
66 postsecondary educational institution eligible to
67 participate in a student aid program administered by the
68 U.S. Department of Education, shall be included in the
69 district's or charter school's state aid calculation under
70 section 163.031, until such time that the pupil would have
71 completed their twelfth grade year had they not earned a
72 show me success diploma. The funding assigned to a pupil
73 under this subsection shall be calculated as if the
74 student's attendance percentage equaled the district or
75 charter school's prior year average attendance percentage.
76 For a pupil who, as provided in this subsection, is included
77 in the district's or charter school's state aid calculation
78 but who is not enrolled in the district or charter school,
79 an amount equal to ninety percent of the pupil's
80 proportionate share of the state, local, and federal aid
81 that the district or charter school receives for said pupil

82 under this subsection, shall be deposited into an account
83 established under sections 166.400 to 166.455 that lists the
84 pupil as the beneficiary. The state treasurer shall provide
85 guidance and assist school districts, charter schools,
86 pupils, and pupil's parents or guardians with the creation,
87 maintenance, and use of an account that has been established
88 under sections 166.400 to 166.455.

89 9. The department of elementary and secondary
90 education shall promulgate all necessary rules and
91 regulations for the administration of this section. Any
92 rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
93 section 536.010, that is created under the authority
94 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
95 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of
96 chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
97 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the
98 powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter
99 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove
100 and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
101 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed
102 or adopted after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid and void.

161.385. 1. There is hereby established the
2 "Competency-Based Education Task Force" to study and develop
3 competency-based education programs in public schools. Task
4 force members shall be chosen to represent the geographic
5 diversity of the state. All task force members shall be
6 appointed before October 31, 2021. The task force members
7 shall be appointed as follows:

8 (1) Two members of the house of representatives
9 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

10 (2) Two members of the senate appointed by the
11 president pro tempore of the senate;

12 (3) The commissioner of the department of elementary
13 and secondary education or his or her designee; and

14 (4) Four members appointed by the governor. Two
15 members shall each represent a separate school district that
16 offers competency-based education courses.

17 2. The members of the task force established under
18 subsection 1 of this section shall elect a chair from among
19 the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet
20 as needed to complete its consideration of its objectives as
21 established in subsections 4 and 5 of this section. Any
22 vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner
23 as the original appointment. Members of the task force
24 shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to
25 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
26 the performance of their official duties.

27 3. The department of elementary and secondary
28 education shall provide such legal, research, clerical, and
29 technical services as the task force may require in the
30 performance of its duties.

31 4. The task force shall:

32 (1) Work toward implementing competency-based
33 education courses statewide and devising a plan for Missouri
34 to lead the way in competency-based education courses;

35 (2) Solicit input from individuals and organizations
36 with information or expertise relevant to the task force's
37 objective, including experts and educators with experience
38 related to competency-based education programs;

39 (3) Hold at least three public hearings to provide an
40 opportunity to receive public testimony including, but not
41 limited to, testimony from educators, local school boards,
42 parents, representatives from business and industry, labor

43 and community leaders, members of the general assembly, and
44 the general public;

45 (4) Identify promising competency-based education
46 programs, including programs that:

47 (a) Afford students flexibility to progress and earn
48 course credit upon demonstration of mastery, including
49 through early high school graduation;

50 (b) Provide individual learning and assessment
51 options, including through experiential and project-based
52 learning, online or blended learning, additional remedial
53 education time, and accelerated-pace curricula;

54 (c) Assess student proficiency through tasks developed
55 both locally and at the state level, performance of which
56 demonstrate mastery;

57 (5) Identify obstacles to implementing competency-
58 based education programs in Missouri public schools;

59 (6) Develop comprehensive graduate profiles which
60 describe meaningful and critical knowledge skills that
61 students should have upon graduation that can be implemented
62 into a diploma designation;

63 (7) Develop findings and recommendations for
64 implementing competency-based education models and practices
65 in Missouri public schools, including recommending changes
66 to existing legislation, rules, and regulations;

67 (8) Develop findings and recommendations for
68 implementing a competency-based performance assessment that:

69 (a) Is consistent with the most effective competency-
70 based education programs identified by the task force
71 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection;

72 (b) Assesses students based on both locally-developed
73 and common statewide performance tasks tied to grade and
74 course competencies aligned with state content standards; and

75 (c) Complies with all applicable federal law,
76 including 20 U.S.C. Section 6311(b)(1)(B). To the extent
77 that implementing a competency-based performance assessment
78 would require the department of elementary and secondary
79 education to obtain innovative assessment and accountability
80 demonstration authority under 20 U.S.C. Section 6364, the
81 task force shall develop findings and recommendations for
82 obtaining such authority.

83 5. The task force shall present its findings and
84 recommendations to the speaker of the house of
85 representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate,
86 the joint committee on education, and the state board of
87 education by December first annually.

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