

Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing

The Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing began operations in August 2000. This program is administered by Northwest Missouri State University and its primary financial support is through Missouri Enhancement Funding from the Department of Higher Education. The Academy's two-year long residential program takes the place of a student's junior and senior years of high school.

There are three areas of interest to high school superintendents, principals and other administrators relating to the Academy that will be addressed below: the high school diploma, finances, and the transition of students to and from the Academy.

I. High School Diploma

The granting of a high school diploma to students who attend the Missouri Academy is administered in one of two ways.

- A. If the sending high school keeps the student on its rolls, state and local graduate requirements are waived, and the student will receive a high school diploma from the sending school when the student satisfactorily completes the core curriculum of the Missouri Academy. The sending school will be permitted to include the standardized test scores (ACT and SAT), MAP scores, etc., in the school's statistical reporting to the Department. The sending school will also count this student in its enrollment statistics and, thus, will be financially reimbursed for a student attending the Missouri Academy at the same rate as other students in that district. It should be noted that the granting of a diploma is not the same as granting a student permission to "walk at graduation." The determination of a student's participation in a graduation ceremony will be at the discretion of the sending high school.
- B. If the sending high school opts not to keep the student on its rolls, and instead transfers her/him to the Missouri Academy, the sending school will not be permitted to include the student's test scores, MAP scores, etc., in its statistical reports to the Department. In addition, the sending high school will not be permitted to claim this student for financial reimbursement. Since in this case the student has no ties to the sending school, she/he will not be eligible to receive a diploma from the sending school. Under this set of circumstances, the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing will grant the student a high school diploma when she/he satisfactorily completes the Missouri Academy core curriculum.

II. Finances

The Missouri Academy budget is partially based on receiving funding on a per student basis from the State of Missouri through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

If the sending school opts to keep the student on its rolls, it will be billed for the state aid (Basic Formula Other State Monies) that the student generates. Other state funds, such as transportation, will remain with the sending school. The sending school district will be billed by the Missouri Academy twice during the school year. The first bill will be for one-half of the total of the state aid. The second bill will be for one-half of the total of the state aid adjusted for student attendance at the Academy. The sending school will be notified regarding the attendance of each student with the second bill.

If the sending school transfers the student to the Missouri Academy, the sending school will not count that student when student enrollments are counted.

III. Transition of Students To and From the Academy

When a student is accepted by the Missouri Academy and enrolls in its programs, the Missouri Academy will notify each sending school district. The sending school district will make the decision whether or not to keep the student on its rolls for reporting purposes.

If a student decides to leave the Missouri Academy, that student is eligible to return to the sending school district. The academic work completed will transfer from the Missouri Academy to the high school. This is similar to what occurs when a student moves from one high school district to another. The Missouri Academy will inform the school as to the course work completed and grades received at the time of transfer.

If you have questions regarding the above, please contact the Missouri School Improvement section at 573-751-4426.