

Policy IGDA: FULL-TIME MOCAP VIRTUAL COURSES

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/15/2021 | Last Revised Date: 06/21/2023

24D UPDATE EXPLANATION

MSBA has modified this policy to reflect changes in the law made by Senate Bill 727 (2024) and DESE regulations pertaining to the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP). Keep in mind that this policy applies to students seeking to enroll full-time in MOCAP with a course provider that is a public school district, charter school, or higher education institution (a "hosted MOCAP provider"). At the time of this publication, the hosted MOCAP providers are:

- Greenways Academy-Boonville R-1 School District
- Launch-Springfield Public Schools
- Missouri Connections Academy-Sturgeon R-V School District
- Missouri Digital Academy-Laquey R5 School District
- Missouri Virtual Academy-Grandview R-II School District
- R7 Online Academy-Lee's Summit R-7 School District

If a student is not enrolling full-time in one of these districts, see policy IGCD for part-time enrollment with a hosted MOCAP provider, full- or part-time enrollment with other MOCAP providers, or enrollment in other virtual course options provided through the district.

Some key changes:

1. Senate Bill 727 requires parents/guardians and students to enroll directly in full-time virtual schooling through hosted MOCAP programs. Previously, all students had to go through the resident district to establish residency before enrolling. Now the host district is responsible for determining whether the student is a resident and whether the student can enroll. The district may submit relevant information and input about the enrollment to the host district but must do so within ten business days of notice that the student is seeking enrollment.
2. The host district will initiate the individualized education program (IEP) team process. While an IEP team will still determine whether enrollment is appropriate, the host district, rather than the resident district, will initiate that process and determine which services are necessary. The resident district is not required to provide these services. However, the law does allow for the host district to contract with the resident district to provide services if the resident district is compensated. MSBA strongly recommends that districts consult with their private attorneys prior to entering into such an agreement.
3. If a hosted MOCAP provider "disenrolls" a student, the provider is required to notify the district. The district then has five business days to provide parents/guardians with a list of available education options within the district.
4. MSBA encourages districts to examine the "Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities" section. This paragraph is not required by law and may be removed or modified. Students attending MOCAP under this policy are not considered to be enrolled in the district, and it therefore makes sense to exclude them from participating in extracurricular activities to the same extent that other unenrolled students are excluded. However, legislators have filed bills to mandate that districts allow these students to participate. These bills have NOT passed, but districts should be aware that this area may be regulated in the future. Your district may want to consider allowing resident MOCAP students to participate in some district extracurricular activities. If so, this section will need to be customized.

This policy applies to students seeking to enroll full-time in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) with a course provider that is a public school district, charter school, or higher education institution (a "hosted MOCAP provider"). See policy IGCD for part-time enrollment with a hosted MOCAP provider, full- or part-time enrollment with other MOCAP providers, or enrollment in other virtual course options provided through the District.

Definitions

District - The Smithville R-II School District.

Education Services Plan and Collaborative Agreement (ESP) – A plan for providing educational services to virtual students. The plan may require the resident school district to provide the student with support services or access to school facilities.

Full-Time MOCAP Student – A student who is enrolled in a MOCAP program for the instructional equivalent of six credits per regular term.

Hosted MOCAP Provider – A public school district, charter school, or higher education institution that is registered through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide virtual education through the MOCAP program to Missouri students. A host district may provide the courses directly or contract with a course provider to provide the courses.

Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) Course – A virtual course that is offered by a course provider listed by DESE as part of the virtual course program under § 161.670, RSMo.

Hosted MOCAP Providers

Resident students who seek to enroll with a hosted MOCAP provider on a full-time basis without paying tuition must first enroll with the District enroll directly with the MOCAP provider and host district offering the program. Students who are accepted by the hosted MOCAP provider will have their enrollment transferred to the host district, and the student will be considered a student of the host district for all purposes.

The District will collaborate in good faith with the virtual program and the host district to determine whether it is in the best educational interest of the student to enroll full-time in a MOCAP program and will cooperate to create an education services plan and collaborative agreement for a resident student. The superintendent or designee will may provide relevant information and input on the student's enrollment within ten business days of notice of the student's enrollment application. The collaborative team will consider all relevant factors, including available opportunities for in-person instruction.

Students who are denied enrollment by the MOCAP provider may utilize the state process for reviewing the decision.

Students with Disabilities

A student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team will make the initial decision on whether the student with an IEP or Section 504 plan is approved to enroll full-time in virtual courses, including MOCAP courses. Any appeal of a decision made by an IEP or Section 504 team must follow the process provided under federal law. It is the hosted MOCAP provider's responsibility to accommodate students with disabilities and implement students' individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans. The District may enter into a contract to provide services to resident students enrolled in these programs if fully compensated by the enrolling host district, but it is not required to do so.

Education Services Plan and Collaborative Agreement

Once enrollment is approved, the District will work with the host district and MOCAP course provider to create an education services plan and collaborative agreement for support of the student. For special education students, the student's IEP governs the plan. If the plan requires the District to provide the student with services or access to District facilities, the District will seek reimbursement by the host district as allowed by law.

Access to District Facilities

Students of full-time hosted MOCAP providers may be allowed access to District facilities for all or some portion of instructional activity if the hosting district reimburses the District for any costs.

Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

Resident students enrolled full-time with a hosted MOCAP provider are considered students of the host district. The District will allow these students to participate in District extracurricular activities if the District allows other unenrolled students, such as homeschooled or private school students, to participate in the activity. Otherwise, participation will be allowed only as required by law.

Notice

The District will inform students and parents/guardians of the availability of the MOCAP program in parent/guardian handbooks and registration documents and feature the program on the homepage of the District's website, as required by law. The District will provide every student enrolled in the District and parents/guardians with a copy of DESE's MOCAP guidance document at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. In addition, the District will provide a readily viewable link to the guidance document on the main page of its website.

Re-Enrollment in the District

If the District is notified that a resident, full-time MOCAP student has been disenrolled by a MOCAP provider, the District will provide a written list of available educational options in the District to the parents/guardians of the student **within five business days** and will promptly re-enroll the student when notified by the parent/guardian.

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Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

§ 161.670, RSMo.

§ 610.021, RSMo.

5 C.S.R. 20-100.230

Description

[State Statute](#)

[State Statute](#)

[State Regulation](#)

Federal References

20 U.S.C. § 1400-1417

29 U.S.C. § 794

34 C.F.R Part 104

34 C.F.R Part 300

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213

Description

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

Cross References

AC

BDC

BDDH-1

JEA

JEA-AP(1)

JECC-1

JED

JED-AP(1)

JED-AP(2)

JFCF

JG-R1

JHD

Description

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