

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 624

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHEY.

1369H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

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

*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 this state that count toward a degree or certificate without taking remedial or developmental course work; and**

**(2) Satisfactory grades on approved examinations in subjects determined to be necessary to prepare a student to enter postsecondary education without remedial or developmental course work.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **4. School districts and charter schools may offer a course of study designed to meet**  
19 **the requirements to obtain a show me success diploma to students entering the ninth grade.**  
20 **Students who elect to pursue a show me success diploma shall participate in a course of**  
21 **study designed by the school district to meet the requirements established under subsection**  
22 **3 of this section. The show me success diploma shall be available to any such student until**  
23 **the end of that student's twelfth grade year.**

24           **5. Students who earn a show me success diploma may remain in high school and**  
25 **participate in programs of study available through the school district or charter school**  
26 **until that student would otherwise have graduated at the end of grade twelve. For**  
27 **purposes of calculation and distribution of state aid, the school district or charter school**  
28 **of a pupil having earned a show me success diploma who remains enrolled in the school**  
29 **district or charter school shall continue to include the pupil in the pupil enrollment of each**  
30 **such school district or charter school and shall continue to receive funding for a pupil who**  
31 **earns a show me success diploma until that pupil would otherwise have graduated at the**  
32 **end of grade twelve. Students who elect to remain in high school under this subsection**  
33 **shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports,**  
34 **through the end of grade twelve.**

35           **6. Students who pursue but do not meet the eligibility requirements for a show me**  
36 **success diploma at the end of grade ten or eleven shall receive a customized program of**  
37 **assistance during the next school year that addresses areas in which the student**  
38 **demonstrated deficiencies in the course requirements. Students may choose to return to**  
39 **a traditional academic program without completing the show me success diploma.**

40           **7. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide training,**  
41 **guidance, and assistance to teachers and administrators of the schools offering the show**  
42 **me success diploma and shall closely monitor the progress of the schools in the**  
43 **development of the program.**

44           **8. Pupils who earn a show me success diploma and do not remain enrolled in the**  
45 **district or charter school and instead enroll, or show proof that they will enroll, in a**  
46 **postsecondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program**  
47 **administered by the U.S. Department of Education shall be included in the district's or**  
48 **charter school's state aid calculation under section 163.031, until such time that the pupil**  
49 **would have completed the pupil's twelfth grade year had the pupil not earned a show me**  
50 **success diploma. The funding assigned to a pupil under this subsection shall be calculated**  
51 **as if the pupil's attendance percentage equaled the district's or charter school's prior year**  
52 **average attendance percentage. For a pupil who, as provided in this subsection, is included**  
53 **in the district's or charter school's state aid calculation but who is not enrolled in the**

54 district or charter school, an amount equal to ninety percent of the pupil's proportionate  
55 share of the state, local, and federal aid that the district or charter school receives for the  
56 pupil under this subsection shall be deposited into an account established under sections  
57 166.400 to 166.455 that lists the pupil as the beneficiary. The state treasurer shall provide  
58 guidance and assist school districts, charter schools, pupils, and parents or guardians of  
59 pupils with the creation, maintenance, and use of an account that has been established  
60 under sections 166.400 to 166.455.

61 9. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate all  
62 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion  
63 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority  
64 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all  
65 of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and  
66 chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
67 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul  
68 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and  
69 any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid and void.

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

6 (1) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
7 house of representatives;

8 (2) Two members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
9 senate;

10 (3) The commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education  
11 or the commissioner's designee; and

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

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

21           **3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide such legal,**  
22 **research, clerical, and technical services as the task force may require in the performance**  
23 **of official duties.**

24           **4. The task force shall:**

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

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

30           **(3) Hold at least three public hearings to provide an opportunity to receive public**  
31 **testimony including, but not limited to, testimony from educators, local school boards,**  
32 **parents, representatives from business and industry, labor and community leaders,**  
33 **members of the general assembly, and the general public;**

34           **(4) Identify promising competency-based education programs, including programs**  
35 **that:**

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

38           **(b) Provide individual learning and assessment options, including through**  
39 **experiential and project-based learning, online or blended learning, additional remedial**  
40 **education time, and accelerated-pace curricula;**

41           **(c) Assess student proficiency through tasks developed both locally and at the state**  
42 **level, performance of which demonstrate mastery;**

43           **(5) Identify obstacles to implementing competency-based education programs in**  
44 **Missouri public schools;**

45           **(6) Develop comprehensive graduate profiles that describe meaningful and critical**  
46 **knowledge skills that students should have upon graduation that can be implemented into**  
47 **a diploma designation;**

48           **(7) Develop findings and recommendations for implementing competency-based**  
49 **education models and practices in Missouri public schools, including recommending**  
50 **changes to existing legislation, rules, and regulations; and**

51           **(8) Develop findings and recommendations for implementing a competency-based**  
52 **performance assessment that:**

53           **(a) Is consistent with the most effective competency-based education programs**  
54 **identified by the task force under subdivision (3) of this subsection;**

55           **(b) Assesses students based on both locally developed and common statewide**  
56 **performance tasks tied to grade and course competencies aligned with state content**  
57 **standards; and**

58           **(c) Complies with all applicable federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section**  
59 **6311(b)(1)(B), as amended. To the extent that implementing a competency-based**  
60 **performance assessment would require the department of elementary and secondary**  
61 **education to obtain innovative assessment and accountability demonstration authority**  
62 **under 20 U.S.C. Section 6364, as amended, the task force shall develop findings and**  
63 **recommendations for obtaining such authority.**

64           **5. The task force shall present its findings and recommendations to the speaker of**  
65 **the house of representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate, the joint committee**  
66 **on education, and the state board of education by December first annually.**

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