

GIVE STUDENTS GREATER ACCESS TO HIGHER LEVEL COURSES

WHAT IS COURSE ACCESS?

Course access programs allow students to take higher level courses or technical courses not offered by their current school, without having to pay costly tuition.

BENEFITS OF COURSE ACCESS

Greater opportunity. Students will be able to take higher level courses or courses not offered by their current school.

Rural students will have access. The 387,000 students in rural school districts would especially benefit from increased access to courses that their schools may not be able to offer.¹

Better prepared for careers. For some students, it will be more practical to enter the workforce sooner, with a certificate or degree from a career or technical school.

Projections have shown that between 2010 and 2018 there will be 14 million job openings across the country that will require an associate's degree or a vocational certificate instead of a traditional bachelor's degree.²

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 518 school districts in Missouri, with 448 districts offering high school.³

For 2017 high school graduates, only 27% met all four of the ACT's college readiness benchmarks.⁴

In Missouri, 43% or less met the benchmarks for reading, science and math.⁵

284 districts in Missouri have zero students enrolled in AP courses.⁶

189 districts do not have a single student enrolled in Physics.⁷

43 districts have zero students enrolled in Chemistry.⁸

2018 LEGISLATION TO WATCH

SB 603, SB 576 and HB 1408: Restructures an existing program into the Missouri Course Access Program, under which a school district must allow any K-12 student to enroll in up to two Missouri Course Access Program courses per school year, with such courses to be paid by the school district. To be eligible, the student must be enrolled full-time and has attended at least one semester, immediately prior to enrolling in the program, at a public or public charter school. The student must also have approval of his or her school counselor.

¹ http://showmeinstitute.org/sites/default/files/20151208%20-%20Course%20Access%20-%20Wagner_McShane_1.pdf

² <http://www.aei.org/publication/beyond-home-ec-vocational-programs-are-a-good-investment/>

³ <https://mc.ds.dese.mo.gov/quickfacts/Missouri%20School%20Directory/2017/2017%20Missouri%20School%20Statistics.pdf>

^{4,5} https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2017/CCCR_National_2017.pdf

^{6,7,8} <http://showmeinstitute.org/blog/school-choice/course-access-missouri-updated>