

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<p><u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u></p>	Yes	<p>Since 1996, 2 AP sites have been funded by the state to promote AP and facilitate AP teacher training. These sites are located at two state universities.</p>	Yes	<p>Low-income students</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State dollars offset the costs of AP exam fees as an incentive for sophomores and juniors to do their best on statewide assessments; Federal dollars pay exam fees for low-income students and state funds teacher training. Policy of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education provides every high school student access to AP courses.
<p>Bridge Programs</p>	Yes	<p>Few bridge programs; implementation decided locally</p>	No		No	
<p>Career Academies</p>	Yes	<p>Clyde C. Miller High School, MO's first career academy, opened in Fall 2004. Students enroll in one career pathway and earn credits to continue their studies at a community college.</p>	No		Yes	<p>Authorized by legislation; the state provides funds for a portion of equipment and faculty salaries.</p>
<p>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</p>	Yes	<p>Implementation decided locally</p>	No		No	
<p>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</p>	Yes	<p>No statewide, systematic effort for distance learning. Two virtual schools offer online and distance learning. The MO Research and Education Network (MOREnet) provides the state network infrastructure to support distance learning.</p>	No		Yes	<p>MOREnet is funded by state appropriations and member fees. The Univ. of MO supports its virtual school with own funding.</p>
<p><u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u></p>	Yes	<p>Permits high school students at any grade level to enroll in dual credit courses. Currently developing statewide articulation agreements for career-technical education (CTE) programs.</p>	No		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 167.223, RSMo Policy administered by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education policy

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Early or Middle College High Schools	No		No		No	
<u>GEAR UP</u>	Yes	GEAR UP programs provide early college preparation and awareness activities to participating students through comprehensive mentoring, counseling, outreach, and other supportive services.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students • Rural students • Urban students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal funding with state and institutional matches from state and partnership grants. • Coordinating Board for Higher Education policy to increase high school preparation and participation in higher education by underserved populations.
<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	Many GED educational programs across the state, including online classes; has GED Option Program allows students to complete a GED while staying in high school and graduating on time.	No		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and federal funding • Coordinating Board for Higher Education policy to increase participation in higher education, particularly from underserved populations, including GED recipients.
<u>High Schools That Work</u>	Yes	In 2001, MO joined the HSTW consortium of states; 2006, 29 schools participating	Yes	Urban students	Yes	State awarded planning grants to assist with implementing the HSTW key goals and conditions.
<u>International Baccalaureate (IB)</u>	Yes	8 high schools participating	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	State dollars offset the costs of IB exams fees as an incentive for sophomores and juniors to do their best on statewide assessments. Federal dollars are used for exam fee payments for low-income students.
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Tech Prep is an articulated 2-year secondary and 2 or more year postsecondary education program.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-traditional by gender (female) • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	Federal Perkins funding and state funding

Summary of academic pathways:

High school reform is a major priority in Missouri. In 2004, the Commissioner of Education formed the Task Force on the High School to recommend ways to strengthen the state's public high schools. Driven by a core curriculum initiative recommended by the Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education, Missouri's core curriculum has allowed the state to address shortcomings. Missouri leaders feel that academic pathways, while common, are not fully integrated into the higher education system. With a rigorous high school core curriculum that is aligned with college requirements, students are more likely to successfully complete other high school programs like AP and then complete college. Along with a core curriculum, Missouri has been focusing on restructuring the high school senior year to make it more rigorous.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

Career Academies

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Of the existing pathways, Missouri makes special efforts to reach underserved students through Tech Prep, AP, IB, High Schools that Work, and GEAR UP. Special efforts are made to promote increased access to college for diverse student groups, including racial and ethnic minority, first-generation, female, urban, rural, and low-income students.

Overall, the state does not explicitly target underserved students. Missouri understands that when it looks at academic pathways, it is constantly thinking of all groups of students and that it does not put up barriers to hinder students from furthering their education. The state assumes academic pathways include all groups of students.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Academic pathways in Missouri receive varying levels of support from the state. Tech Prep and career academies are the only pathways supported by state legislation and funding; dual credit is supported by state legislation and policy. Distance learning and High Schools that Work are supported by state funding. Very few students in Missouri are impacted by the state support (or lack thereof) because career academies and High Schools that Work are present in only a small number of schools.

Despite offering numerous pathways, Missouri has challenges with the administration of academic pathways. There are over a dozen policymakers from different state agencies working on pathways at any given time, and collaboration and communication have been difficult for leaders of the K-12 and the Higher Education systems. Common goals have required extensive discussion. Furthermore, lack of information on other states' academic pathways has contributed to Missouri's challenges. Today, leaders from both systems are meeting and working together for the first time to strengthen education across all levels.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Academic pathways cannot be implemented systematically without a common goal shared by everyone.
- Once a common goal is agreed upon, a state agency must team up with systems and agencies to affect success.
- Not one department in state government can do it alone. K-12 and Higher Education systems must collaborate and communicate to be successful. This way, agencies can reinforce each other's efforts and not duplicate initiatives.
- It is important for a state to provide opportunities for all students.
- Reduce the bureaucracy in schools. Continue to examine state rules and policies to determine which ones can be waived or eliminated so schools can do what they need to do. Allow schools to make their own decisions and have flexibility instead of mandating schools follow state rules for the sake of following them.



MISSOURI

State Profile

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Lee's Summit West High School	Jean Miller	jean.miller@leesummit.k12.mo.us	(816) 986-1000
Advanced Placement (AP)	Columbia Public Schools	Joyce Jones	jjones@columbia.k12.mo.us	(573) 214-3400
High Schools That Work	Arcadia Valley School District	David Dillard	ddillard@mail.av.k12.mo.us	(573) 546-9700
High Schools That Work	Ritenour School District	William Korte	korteb@ritenour.k12.mo.us	(314) 493-6105

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(Prepared by Melanie B. Rubin/ Updated February, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)