



Frequently Asked Questions

School Year 2011-12

1. What is the Missouri Virtual Instructional Program (MoVIP)?

MoVIP offers virtual online courses for students statewide. Students can take an entire course from any Internet-connected computer, available 24 hours a day, and seven days a week. MoVIP is a K-12 program.

MoVIP's mission is to offer Missouri student's equal access to a wide range of high quality courses, flexibility in scheduling, and interactive online learning that is neither time nor place dependent.

2. Can MoVIP students participate in the A+ Program?

Yes. They must meet the requirements detailed on the Missouri Department of Elementary and secondary Education (DESE) website. www.dhe.mo.gov/aplusscholarship.html

Note:

Checking the box on the MoVIP application indicating local school district enrollment does not make the student automatically eligible to participate in a designated high school's A+ program.

3. Who can enroll in MoVIP?

All Missouri residents who are public, private, and/or home school students are entitled to apply for enrollment.

4. How are MoVIP classes structured?

MoVIP students are guided through their courses by Missouri certified teachers. Courses are delivered over the Internet. To assure student success with virtual learning, a variety of web-based, technology resources (streaming audio and video, computer animations, email, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and digital portfolios) are provided. Teachers communicate with students and parents on a regular basis via phone, email, online chats, instant messaging, and discussion forums.

5. Who administers the MoVIP online program?

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the State Board of Education oversee administration and quality assurance activities such as related content and delivery of courses.

6. What are the costs of MoVIP classes?

MoVIP is a tuition program where school districts, private schools or parents can pay for the classes. The costs of the classes vary by what the online vendor charges. Average costs are between \$300 and \$350.00 per semester course. Details about costs are found in the course information.

7. How long are the courses?

For secondary students, the average course will take 18-20 weeks to complete. For the elementary student the courses are based more on a regular school year with two semesters.

8. Why do we need MoVIP?

MoVIP allows Missouri to:

- Expand the range of courses and opportunities offered to students
- Offer courses for students where there are no qualified teachers to teach the course
- Allow students to take a course not offered because there are not enough students to assign teacher to teach the course at the school district
- Provide courses for students who have schedules that prevent them from taking a course when it is offered
- Present high quality instruction to students who are in alternative education settings or on home and hospital instruction
- Provide additional support and extended time to students who failed to achieve in regular courses
- Provides equity across programs and school in the quality of instruction MoVIP offers “any time, any place” learning for Missouri students

9. Will MoVIP issue students diplomas?

MoVIP is not a school and does NOT offer a complete high school diploma program online. The credit earned by a MoVIP course is entered on the student’s transcript at the local school district by the site facilitator. Non-public students will receive the credit that can be forwarded to the appropriate agency.

10. What are the advantages for school districts?

Interest in online education is exploding, and reflecting the need for flexibility that our fast-paced lives often demand. Online education is growing in popularity because it offers learning choices that are effective, flexible, and accessible. Students can take online courses from the convenience of their own homes. These classes can expand offerings, resolve scheduling conflicts, and meet other needs. MoVIP simplifies the process of adding virtual courses to a district’s curriculum. It takes care of the details, providing the content, platform, online teachers, technical support, training, server, and much more.

11. How do I keep updated on the development of this program?

The website (www.movip.org) is the best way to stay apprised of issues and new updated on for the MoVIP program. Feel free to contact the MoVIP office at 573-751-2453 or by e-mail to movipinfo@dese.mo.gov.

12. How many students are permitted to enroll in MoVIP for the 201-2012 school year?

Since the program is a tuition program, MoVIP does not have any restriction on the number of students that can enroll.

13. How can you register for MoVIP classes?

Registrations for the 2010-2011 school year will open in early July 2010. Registration will continue throughout July, August, and into September.

14. What courses will be offered for 2011-2012?

A complete list of courses can be found on the MoVIP website. www.movip.org/documents/QL-MoVIP-CourseList.pdf

15. Does MoVIP have a gifted program?

MoVIP now offers accelerated classes at the elementary level (3rd through 5th grades). While not gifted classes, these classes proceed at an accelerated rate allowing additional content to be covered.

16. Will MoVIP provide equipment for students?

No equipment will be provided.

17. What type of equipment will be required of students to participate either at home or school?

Internet access is required to take courses with MoVIP. While it may be possible to take courses with dial-up connectivity, slow connections will not provide optimal online course experience. For optimum performance, compatibility and security please make sure all software is upgraded regularly. If you have questions or need help, contact movipsupport@dese.mo.gov.

18. Can a student be removed from a MoVIP class?

Yes. Any student who fails to submit any assignments and/or has a 0% grade at the end of the 14-day grace period will automatically be withdrawn by DESE. This withdrawal will not be reflected on the student's transcript. If a student is inactive for a 21-day period (not submitting any work for 21 consecutive days), the student will be removed from the course as well. MoVIP staff will notify students/parents to encourage their participation. Students removed from a course for inactivity will be considered a dropped student and will have "dropped" entered on the student's transcript. Students with documented medical or other issues resulting in non-activity can request an extension.

19. What if a student drops after the 14-day grace period and/or is dropped for 21 day inactivity?

These students will be considered a dropped student and "dropped" will be entered on their transcript.

20. Can a student re-enroll in a class if they have been dropped from the class?

Students will only be allowed to re-enroll in the same MoVIP class once during one academic year. Students who have dropped out of more than 2 MoVIP classes in an academic year will have to obtain special permission from the Coordinator of Student Services to enroll in any additional MoVIP classes.

21. Will MoVIP be available for summer school?

MOVIP offers a summer school program every summer.

22. Will students receive grades?

Yes. At the completion of a semester course, the student, school district, or private school will receive the percentage of successful course work for each course. Each district will then assign a letter grade for their student(s) based on the local grading scale. This accommodates the various grading scales used throughout Missouri. Local policies about weighting and grading scales are applied to the score MoVIP provides.

23. Can a student take Advanced Placement (AP) courses?

Yes. MoVIP will offer 19 Advanced Placement courses that are certified by College Board and taught by AP certified teachers. MoVIP will NOT be responsible for administering the AP exam at the end of the course. Local school officials can assist the student with that process. MoVIP is a great equalizer in accessing these higher level classes.

24. Is dual credit available for MoVIP classes?

No. MoVIP does not currently plan to participate in a dual credit program.

25. What tests will be required of MoVIP students?

Senate Bill 912 states that MoVIP “will comply with all state laws and regulations applicable to school districts including, but not limited to, the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), Annual Performance Report (APR), Teacher Certification and Curriculum Standards.” This bill requires that all students (public, non-public and home schooled) enrolled in a MoVIP course must participate in MAP testing through MoVIP. MAP testing generally occurs during the months of April and May. Please pay close attention to our website for specific information about testing requirements, locations, times, dates, etc. Missouri’s MAP program also will require an End-of-Course Exam (EOC). MoVIP students will be required to take the EOC exam for Algebra I, English II, Biology, Government and U.S. History during the 2010-2011 school year.

Teachers

26. Can a district offer a MoVIP class and utilize their own teachers?

MoVIP now offers some of the classes to school districts without instructors. These courses are available at a reduced price. Some training opportunities will be provided for local school districts. A separate website will be provided for school districts to review this option. You can also contact the MoVIP office at 573-751-2453 for more information about this option.

Districts

27. What will be expected of public and private school districts?

If a public or private school has a student participating in the MoVIP program, DESE will ask the school/district to provide a name of a site facilitator/liaison. This person will be MoVIP’s contact persons and would be expected to assist the student or the virtual teacher as issues arise. Selected Site Facilitators can access student information and course progress by logging into the Maestro SIS system linked from the MoVIP website. https://k12apps.dese.mo.gov/webapps/maestro_2009/default.aspx

28. Can a district pay for MoVIP courses through the tuition model and still collect full state aid for the student?

Missouri Revised Statue 162.1250 became law in the summer of 2009. This law allows school districts to collect state aid for any student taking a virtual class without having to keep track of attendance hours. For virtual education classes, students can take the classes at any location and the district can still collect state aid with 94% attendance as assigned by the law.

29. Will school districts need to revise some of their own policies and procedures to accommodate the MoVIP initiative?

Possibly. Districts should review the State Board Rule for MoVIP as well as the 2010 High School Graduation Handbook for DESE. These resources will assist districts with development of their own policies and procedures.

30. Where can I get a copy of the State Board Rules for MoVIP?

Read the State Board Rule for MoVIP - 5 CSR 50-500.010.
www.dese.mo.gov/schoollaw/rulesregs/50500010.htm

31. Can homebound students take advantage of MoVIP?

Yes. Homebound students, including those who are expelled or Out of School Suspension (OSS) and those homebound for medical reasons are using MoVIP for course delivery. A school district can use this option in place of sending a teacher to the student's home for 5 hours per week.

32. Can a middle school student take high school-level courses?

Yes. Academically advanced students in elementary and middle school/junior high will be allowed to take high school-level courses. Local policies will determine if the credits will be counted toward meeting the subject-area requirements for graduation.

Students

33. Will I have a real teacher?

Yes. A highly qualified, Missouri-certified teacher will be the instructor for your course(s). You can communicate with them via instant messenger, e-mail, and phone. Remember, they could be located anywhere.

34. What type of students can benefit from using MoVIP?

Students confronted with the following scenarios:

- Courses not offered in student's school
- Scheduling conflict
- Credit recovery, deficient
- Homebound
- Teen parents
- Home Schooled
- Remedial students who require one-on-one support
- Alternative or at-risk students
- Enrichment and/or Advanced Placement opportunities
- Students who want to improve their skills in a particular subject

35. What type of student is usually successful in learning online?

Students who choose to participate in online courses will need to examine their personal skills and aptitudes for taking a class online. The following attributes can contribute to a student's success: Self-motivation, independent learning, computer literate, efficient time manager, effective written communication skills, and personal commitment. Students should not expect that there will be less to do than in the regular classroom since each course must adhere to the Missouri standards and grade level expectations for the area of instruction. For success in the virtual classroom, it is vital that students log in on a daily basis and submit assignments.

36. What skills do I need to succeed in an online class?

Students need adequate keyboarding skills and good written skills. Experience using email and a web browser is highly recommended. Students also need to be self-motivated. Falling behind in an online course makes it very difficult to succeed. Keep in close contact with your instructor and log in several times a week to keep up.

37. Will I be completely on my own?

No. Although you will have more responsibility for time management and independent study than you do in a traditional course, you will have a Missouri-certified teacher who will be available to you during their office hours during the week. MoVIP is not a correspondence class but rather an interactive program involving communication among students, teachers, and parents.

38. How do online classes work? Do I have to be online at a certain time?

No, typically you don't have to be online at a certain time. Your instructor will ask you to meet deadlines and due dates just as in a traditional class. All class work and assignments are accessible for the entire semester course from the first day you log in to allow for instruction at your own pace. Class discussion takes place in a discussion area where comments are displayed and left up throughout the course. To participate, go to the threaded discussion area in the online classroom, read the items listed and add your comments. Make sure that you participate in these discussions regularly. Participation in online discussions is important. Take it seriously; in most courses the quality of your "class participation" will be factored into your final grade.

39. How will I receive credit?

When you complete your online course MoVIP provides a percentage to your school. Local grading scales and weighting policies will be applied by your school before they award credit. MoVIP has not adopted a grading scale. Please remember, MoVIP does NOT offer a diploma.

40. Can I participate in the A+ program with MoVIP?

Yes. www.dhe.mo.gov/aplusscholarship.html

41. What if I have trouble logging into the online classes?

Email the technical assistance section at movipsupport@dese.mo.gov for information about requesting help.

42. Does MoVIP offer classes in the summer?

Yes. Six different eight week sessions offered during the 2011 summer. Summer school information is usually posted in early April.