

Whitepaper | Spring 2017

LAUNCH

Virtual Course Access for Missouri Students, Designed,
Developed and Delivered by Missouri Educators





Executive Summary

The need to provide students with flexible, personalized learning options is nothing new for parents and districts seeking educational choices. With more choices available than ever before, making the right decision has never been more critical.

How can you ensure you are making the right choice for virtual education options for your students?

Choosing Launch provides all students, whether public school, home school, or private/parochial access to high-demand and high-quality virtual courses designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators. Launch courses are built using Missouri Learning Standards and are designed with engaging digital content including personalized learning paths. Launch can provide a full high school diploma option for students and courses are NCAA approved.

Launch is Missouri's solution for course access issues for school districts and families in need of flexible and personalized learning options.

Launch courses meet both individual student needs and the needs of districts seeking to provide virtual course options for their students. By providing high-quality, high-demand courses to Missouri students, Launch can solve statewide course access issues. Developed by Missouri educators, using Missouri Learning Standards, and delivered by Missouri teachers, Launch courses provide support for all students, including those seeking advanced courses or students in need of Special Education accommodations.

This statewide, collaborative approach provides high-quality virtual course access for Missouri students, designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators.

Ready. Set. Launch.

The Launch Team

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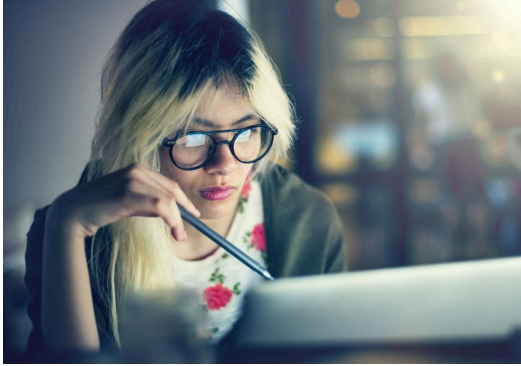
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Why Virtual?

Modern learners are digital learners. Whatever path a student chooses following post secondary education, the ability to learn online will be critical to success.

Currently, many Missouri school districts and parents lack access to high-quality, virtual programming developed using Missouri Learning Standards, taught by Missouri educators. School districts and parents also lack access to courses needed by students but are unavailable at the local level. Frequently, private, for-profit corporations providing virtual courses lack quality support for students and districts and are not designed using Missouri Learning Standards.

Online course options can meet specific school challenges and student need, including providing:

- » Alternatives for scheduling conflicts
- » Access to hard to find courses and teachers
- » Electives and accelerated options
- » Flexibility for homebound and at-risk students
- » Options for students who are medically fragile
- » Credit recovery programs
- » Solutions for over-crowded classes

* Source: Babson Survey Research Group, 2016

**Source: "Keeping Pace with K-12 Digital Learning", Evergreen Education Group, 2016

5.8 million

college students are currently enrolled in an online class.*



73%



K-12 schools nationwide have implemented online course options for students.**



Why Now?

The Virtual Charter Reality

42 states and the District of Columbia allow charter schools; 35 states and D.C. permit full-time virtual charters as well. As the Missouri political landscape shifts to a focus on choice, newly proposed legislation suggests Missouri will soon be added to the list of states allowing public school funding to shift to for-profit vendors who use state tax dollars to fund high marketing budgets and CEO salaries.

Average Graduation Rate *

40%

Virtual Charter

82%

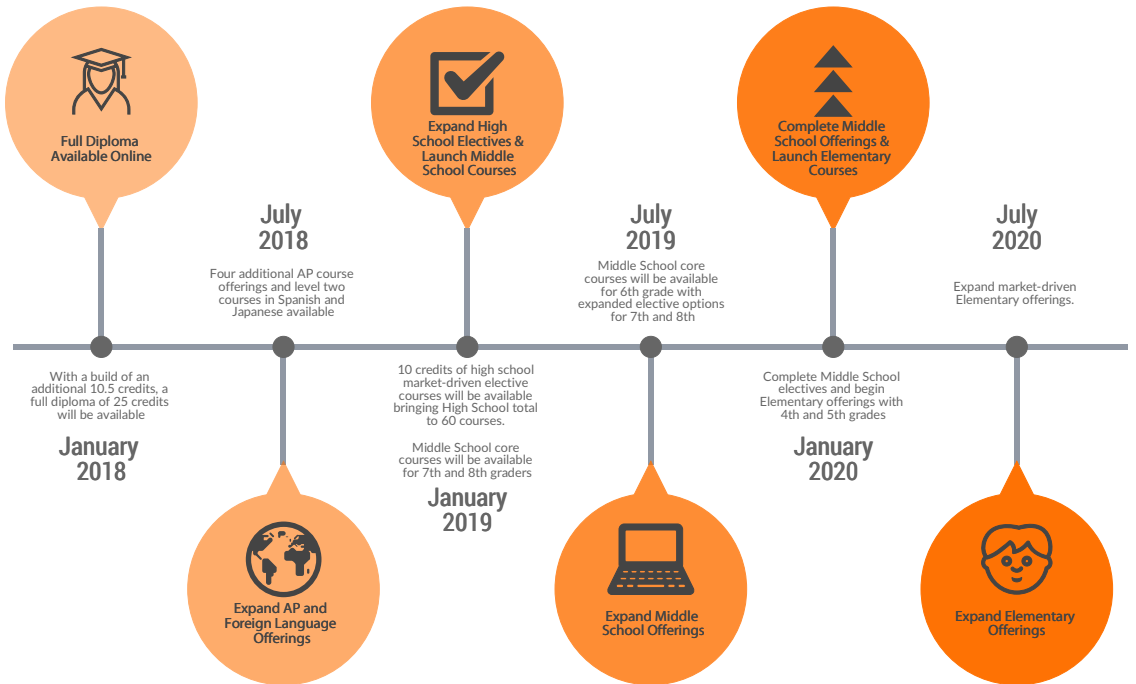
Public Schools

2/3

of online charter schools had weaker overall academic growth than traditional public schools.*

74.4%

of students enrolled in full-time virtual charters utilize courses created by private, for-profit companies.*



The Launch Solution

Launch is Missouri’s solution for course access issues for school districts and families in need of flexible and personalized learning options. This statewide, collaborative approach provides high-quality virtual course access for Missouri students, designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators.

Launch currently has 48 courses developed. 70 courses will be available through Launch with a full high school diploma beginning January 2018. Middle School offerings will be released beginning in January 2019.



Course Options

Launch currently has 48 courses available for Missouri students designed, developed, and delivered by Missouri educators. By January 2018, a full high school diploma will be available. By July 2018, 60 courses will be available including more Advanced Placement courses, higher-level math and foreign language.

Launch courses are available in three delivery modes including traditional virtual, credit acquisition and credit recovery (when applicable) depending on the needs of the student.

All Launch courses are taught by Missouri teachers who meet DESE "Highly Qualified" status. Courses will follow DESE class size standards of students per instructor.

Middle School courses will begin to be released in July 2018, including core and elective courses.

For a full list of course options, see [Appendix A](#).

Traditional Virtual

NCAA and MSHSAA approved
Start and stop with traditional calendar

Require proctored, face-to-face final exam

Course progress monitored using Dropout Detective

Credit Recovery

MSHSAA approved

Flexible start dates

Priority standards assessed at 80% mastery

Course progress monitored using Dropout Detective

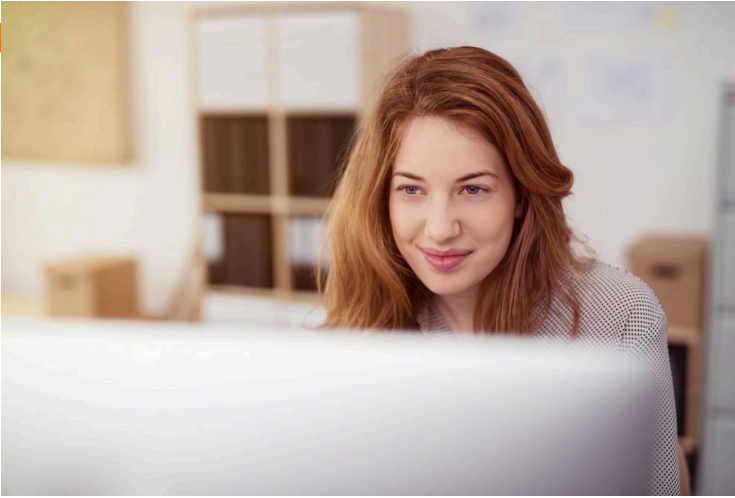
Credit Acquisition

Full course content

Flexible start dates

Student earns pass or fail grade

Course progress monitored using Dropout Detective



Easy Solutions

Launch courses are provided at a per-credit cost to parents or districts seeking course access solutions. Because Launch courses are tuition based, districts collect standard ADA when taken as part of a student's schedule. For fee structures, see Appendix B. For district reimbursement structure, see Appendix C.

What's included with a Launch course?

Quality Content

Courses designed with Missouri Learning Standards

Annually reviewed content ensures updated resources

High-quality digital resources embedded in all courses

Personal approach to courses using Canvas Mastery Path

Personal Support

Content hosted by Launch

Highly-qualified teacher

7 Days a Week Support

Student progress monitoring using Dropout Detective

Turn-Key Access

No District Hosting Required

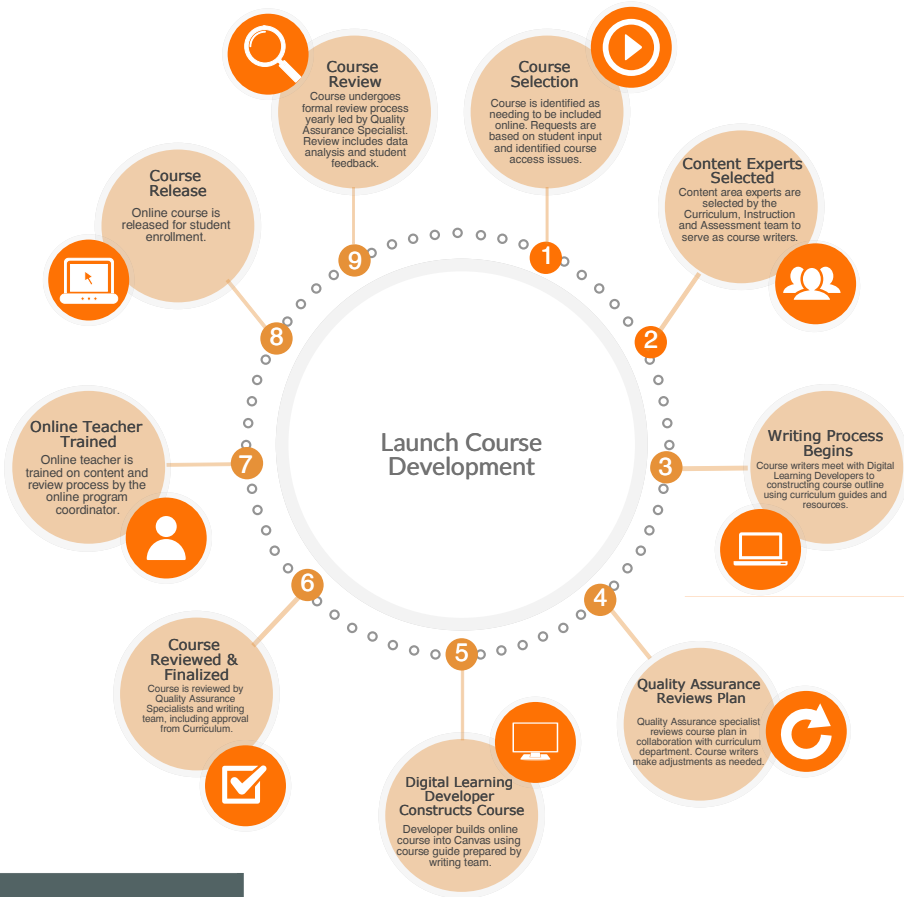
Simple fee structure

Support included

Choose course access that meets your needs

Launch Course Development

Online courses developed through Launch undergo a rigorous development process that starts with Missouri teachers designing courses using Missouri Learning Standards, utilizing curriculum experts and Digital Learning Developers. A formal review process is also built into all course development. The annual review process ensures courses maintain relevance, contain the latest resources, and meet accessibility compliance.



Canvas Mastery Paths

Launch utilizes Canvas Learning Management System for content delivery. Thanks to Canvas' unique Mastery Paths platform, instruction can be personalized to meet individual student need. Accelerating through content due to prior knowledge? No problem. Need more assistance or remediation to grasp a concept? You bet. This unique feature allows Missouri's teachers to assist students with individual learning needs instantly through adaptive, personalized design.



Launch Collaborative Approach

Launch seeks to engage partners and stakeholders from across the state of Missouri to ensure all students have access to high-quality virtual courses, designed, developed, and delivered by Missouri educators. Three levels of engagement are designed, including an Advisory Board, an Advisory Council and systematic quality assurance processes.

The Annual Launch Summit engages district leaders and legislators from across the state in collaborative planning on the future of virtual education in Missouri.

Advisory Board

Members including legislative advocates, association members, home and private school representatives and superintendents

Review enrollment trends, course outcomes, online policy updates, approve Launch Advisory Council recommendations, including upcoming courses, policies, practices and procedures

Advisory Council

Members including Missouri curriculum representation, education technology representation, Digital Learning Developer, Quality Assurance Specialist, parents, students, and teachers

Review enrollment trends, course outcomes, recommend courses for future development, recommend policies, practices and procedures

Conclusion

The world is changing at a rate that makes the future impossible to predict. Flexible education options for students have never been more important or more readily available. Access to high-quality courses, that provide quality instruction, in a flexible delivery system is critical to meet the needs of today's modern learners.

Launch is Missouri's solution for course access issues for school districts and families in need of flexible and personalized learning options. This statewide, collaborative approach provides high-quality virtual course access for Missouri students, designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators.

About the Authors

Dr. John Jungmann

Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools

Dr. John Jungmann is superintendent of Missouri's largest school district, which serves 25,000 students and employs approximately 4,000 individuals. Focusing on every learner, every day, Dr. Jungmann leads SPS in efforts to ensure all students are prepared for tomorrow by providing engaging, relevant and personalized educational experiences. In October 2016, Dr. Jungmann was named Missouri Superintendent of the Year and was also invited to represent SPS in the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.

Dr. Ben Hackenwerth

Executive Director, Innovation and Information

Dr. Ben Hackenwerth is Executive Director of Innovation and Information for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield MO. His team exists to design and advocate for innovative processes, products, resources and experiences to ensure engaging, relevant and personalized learning for the SPS community. Dr. Hackenwerth believes that our rapidly changing world requires a rapidly changing educational experience and is passionate about providing this for Springfield Public Schools students.

Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director, Blended Learning

Dr. Nichole Lemmon is the Director of Blended Learning at Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MO. The Blended Learning Department supports teachers in the blending of instruction through the IGNiTE initiative, develops online courses to meet flexible learning needs and maintains the district's Learning Management System, Canvas. Dr. Lemmon is passionate about narrowing the digital divide and providing high-quality online learning opportunities to all students.

Mr. Bruce Douglas

Director, Information Technology

Mr. Bruce Douglas is the Director of Information Technology for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield MO. Mr. Douglas leads a team of 40, supporting all students and staff at SPS in using modern learning tools. Mr. Douglas is focused on providing exemplary customer service and creating solutions to barriers.



For more information on Launch course solutions, contact us!

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Virtual course access for Missouri Students,
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Launch | Appendix A

LAUNCH

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Availability

● January 2018 release
 ● July 2018 release
 ● January 2019 release

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CREDIT

English I	●	1.0
English I Honors	●	1.0
English II	●	1.0
English II Honors		1.0
English III		1.0
English III Honors		1.0
English IV		1.0
Creative Writing		0.5
Film as Literature		1.0
Contemporary Literature	●	1.0
Contemporary Literature Honors	●	

MATHEMATICS CREDIT

Algebra I		1.0
Geometry	●	1.0
Algebra II	●	1.0
Professional Math		1.0
Trigonometry	●	1.0

SCIENCES CREDIT

Physics First	●	1.0
Physics First Honors	●	1.0
General Biology	●	1.0
Earth Science	●	1.0
Earth Science Honors	●	1.0
Chemistry	●	1.0
Chemistry Honors	●	1.0
Astronomy		1.0

PRACTICAL ARTS

Personal Finance		0.5
Digital Communications		0.5
Web Design		1.0
Intro to Computer Science		0.5

SOCIAL STUDIES CREDIT

US History	●	1.0
US History Honors	●	1.0
World History	●	1.0
World History Honors	●	1.0
Liberty and Law (Government)		0.5
Liberty and Law Honors (Government)		0.5
World Geography		0.5
Psychology		0.5
Psychology of the Holocaust		1.0
Civil War	●	0.5

FINE ARTS CREDIT

Art Foundations	●	1.0
Fine Arts Appreciation I		1.0
Fine Arts Appreciation II		1.0

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT

Health		0.5
Physical Fitness		0.5
Physical Education I	●	0.5

WORLD LANGUAGES CREDIT

Spanish I		1.0
Spanish II	●	1.0
Japanese I		1.0
Japanese II	●	1.0

ELECTIVES CREDIT

Drivers Education		0.5
ACT Prep		0.5
Employment Internship		0.5
Volunteerism		0.5

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CREDIT

AP Computer Science		1.0
AP English Lit & Composition	●	1.0
AP Statistics	●	1.0
AP Calculus AB	●	1.0
AP Calculus BC	●	1.0
AP US Gov & Politics I	●	1.0
AP US Gov & Politics II	●	1.0
AP US History	●	0.5

CREDIT RECOVERY CREDIT

English I		1.0
English II		1.0
English III		1.0
Algebra I		1.0
Geometry		1.0
Astronomy		1.0
Earth Science		1.0
Chemistry		1.0
Intro to Biology		1.0
Intro to Chemistry		1.0
US History		1.0
World History		1.0
Liberty and Law (Government)		0.5
World Geography		0.5
Health		0.5
Personal Finance		0.5
Digital Communications		0.5

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LAUNCH

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

Availability

● January 2019 release ● July 2019 release

HUMANITIES

Humanities 6th Grade	●
Humanities 7th Grade	●
Humanities 8th Grade	●

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics 6th Grade	●
Mathematics 7th Grade	●
Mathematics 8th Grade	●
Accelerated 7th Grade Math	●
Algebra	

SCIENCES

Science 6th Grade	●
Science 7th Grade	●
Science 8th Grade	●

FINE ARTS

Visual Arts	●
Music Journeys	●

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health 6th Grade	●
Health 7th Grade	●
Health 8th Grade	●
Physical Education 6th Grade	●
Physical Education 7th Grade	●
Physical Education 8th Grade	●

EXPLORATORIES

Computer Science	●
Reading	●
Digital Communications	●

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COURSES

Available July 2019

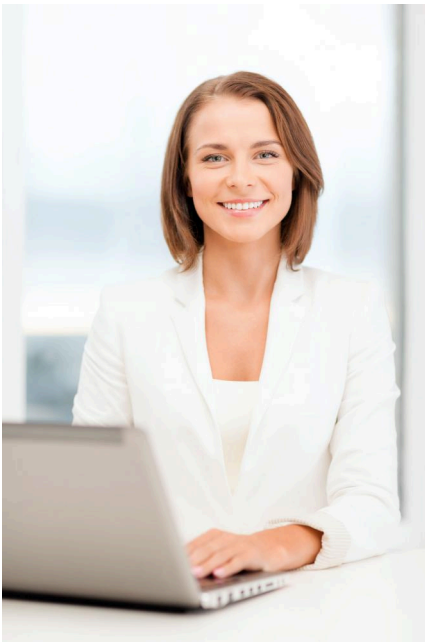
Launch Fee Structures

Launch courses are priced by .5 credit. All courses are \$300 per .5 credit. This fee includes all course content hosted, access to a full-time teacher, student progress monitoring and 7 day-a-week technical support.

For school districts providing their own instructor, courses can be purchased for \$4,590. Courses would still be hosted by Launch and technical support would still be provided. This annual fee includes course updates. Student technology and course peripherals are not included in courses using non-Launch faculty.



LAUNCH STAFFING STRUCTURES



Launch teachers hold valid Missouri teacher certification and meet highly-qualified status for subject areas taught.

Launch staffs full-time teachers and adjunct teachers. Teachers may apply for Launch teaching positions through Springfield Public Schools' Human Resources Department. Hired staff participate in on-boarding and training processes.

Teachers hired in adjunct status are paid \$2,500 per semester, per course section for courses with enrollment above 12. Courses with 5-11 students are compensated \$1,000 per semester, per course. Courses below 5 students are only be permitted with Launch leadership permission. Compensation for courses with low enrollment are based on a per-student rate of \$100 per student.

School districts may elect to use and compensate their own teachers for online course delivery. Please see Launch Fee Structures (above) for more information on this model.

LAUNCH

Launch ADA, Enrollment & Core Data Appendix

Attendance Reporting

- LAUNCH courses are tuition paid by the sending school district and are counted for attendance by the sending school district.
- The hours reported shall equal, upon course completion, ninety-four percent of the hours of attendance possible for such class delivered in the non-virtual program in the student's resident district school.

Hours to report:

- 60 min blocks * 5 days / week = 300 min / week
- 300 min / week * 18 weeks of instruction = 5400 min per sem per non-virtual
- 5400 min per sem * 0.94 virtual factor = 5076 min per sem for virtual courses
- 5076 min per sem for virtual / 60 min = **84.6 hours per course reported**
- Sending district should structure attendance reporting virtual block of time to accommodate the sending district master schedule.
- If the virtual course is scheduled outside the “regular” school day of the sending district, then the virtual course is not eligible for state aid.

Core Data - Resident I - Cooperative Agreements

- Students residing in one district but attending school in another district with a negotiated payment structure in place.
- District of residence will report their students as part of both the Student Core & Student Enrollment & Attendance MOSIS files as a RI student.
- Since virtual course, LAUNCH will not need to send daily attendance reports back to district of residence.
- LAUNCH (SPS) will report all students as part of SPS Student Assignment data
- If course is taken for dual credit/dual enrollment, then the information will be reported as part of the SPS Student Assignment data. The student MOSIS ID will be tied back to district of residence for APR CCR 3.4 accreditation points.

End of Course Exams

- District of residence is responsible for arranging and assessing students on any EOC mandated courses taken via LAUNCH. All EOC results will be tied to district of residence.

Grades

- LAUNCH will provide official grades to district of residence