



First Semester / Second Semester

Senior Option Application
Late Start or Early Dismissal Incentive Program
High School
2026-2027

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____ Grade: _____

Rationale:

The high school experience offers students an opportunity to become responsible citizens within the school community. As students become more effective decision-makers, it is logical that they should earn greater freedoms within the school. Seniors are nearing a time in their lives when they must begin to assume more responsibility for their decisions. Thus, an assumption is made that seniors will benefit if they are given more responsibility to determine the mapping of their school day. Students and their parents must keep in mind, however, that the freedom to make these decisions is a privilege. Those privileges may be removed by the student's principal if s/he fails to observe the rules and expectations of the school. Form must be signed off by the activity director and the school Administrator.

Seniors may request either Late Start or Early Dismissal – but not both. Due to scheduling and class availability, we cannot guarantee either late start or early dismissal. Late Start or Early Dismissal applies to one class period only.

Please check your preference: **Late Start** **Early Release**

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Credit: 18 credits for seniors.
2. Behavior: No ISS/OSS the previous semester, per grade level principal review.
3. Parent Permission.
4. No Financial Obligations (Fines or Fees).
5. Grade Requirement: No failing grades the previous semester, per grade level review.
6. Attendance: no unexcused absences the previous semester, per grade level review.
7. Seniors must be enrolled in the equivalent of 6 courses for credit.
8. Building principal approval may be granted due to extenuating circumstances.

Loss of privileges:

1. Assignment to ISS/OSS.
 2. Unexcused absence.
 3. Five tardies to school.
 4. Progress report with failing grade, or quarter failing grade.
 5. Teacher referrals may result in loss of privilege to be determined by administration.
 6. Seniors who lose this privilege will be placed in a study hall, and a potential schedule change may be necessary to accommodate the study hall falling between 2nd and 6th hours only.
 7. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by building principal.
- Students who rely on school transportation will be assigned [an area] a location in the school.
 - This privilege will not qualify a student for a parking pass.

I agree to abide by the rules and expectations of this incentive program and also understand that I can lose this privilege if I violate any rules.

Student signature

Part-Time Status

Participation in the Senior Option Program will result in my student being designated as part-time for state purposes (see letter on opposite side). The part-time status could affect Social Security benefits, car insurance or other benefits. I understand it is my responsibility to follow up with the individual carriers.

Parent signature

For Office Use Only:

Unexcused absences from previous semester checked: _____

Library Fines: _____

Discipline file checked: _____

General Fines: _____

Credit check (must have 18 credits): _____

Previous Semester GPA: _____

No Failing Grades: _____

6 courses for credit: _____

Activity Director Signature: _____

School Administrator Signature: _____



Senior Incentive Option

Notification: Part-time student status

February 2, 2026

Dear Rockwood Parent:

High school seniors have the opportunity to participate in the senior incentive option. This option allows eligible seniors to take a reduced schedule by providing a late start or early dismissal to the school day. Students participating in the senior incentive option are **considered part-time students in the Missouri Student Information System. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires Rockwood School District to classify students who participate in the Late Start or Early Dismissal Incentive program as part-time.**

It is important to note that part-time student status may affect the following:

1. **Social Security Benefits:** Students who receive social security benefits may lose their benefits if they select the part-time status through the senior incentive option.
2. **Car insurance and other benefits:** Parents are advised to check with their insurance company regarding the part-time student status to ensure there is not a change in benefits for the student or family.

Students and parents must complete and return the senior option application form on the opposite side of this letter indicating they are aware that part-time student status may affect Social Security benefits and other types of insurance/benefits if they choose to participate in this program.

MSHSAA eligibility: MSHSAA eligibility is not affected by part-time student status; however, it is important for students and parents to review semester credits. Students participating in a MSHSAA activity must be enrolled in courses at the high school to earn three units of credit during the following:

The semester of the senior option schedule

The semester after the senior option schedule

If the student is enrolled in only six classes and fails one, the student will be ineligible for MSHSAA competition the next semester.

If you have any questions, please contact the Senior Office at your school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Janson
Assistant Superintendent
Supervision of Secondary Education