FLY SPS

Take learning to new heights

At Springfield-Branson National Airport

Fly SPS has been developed to provide aviation career opportunities to Springfield Public Schools students. Students will learn through classroom work, simulator use, and flight hours. **Upon successful completion of Fly SPS, students will earn their Private Pilot License.** Fly SPS is a five semester, half day program. Students will be enrolled during fall and spring semesters of their junior year, during the summer as a rising senior, and during fall and spring semesters of their senior year. Students must provide their own transportation.

Questions can be directed to Mary Edgerton, Ed.S., medgerton@spsmail.org or 417-523-5558

WHO CAN APPLY FOR 2027-2028 ENROLLMENT?

- SPS students who will be a junior Fall 2027 and who will be 16 years old by August 1, 2027.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Be an SPS junior Fall 2027
- Be 16 years of age by August 1, 2027
- Have earned or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra II by Fall 2027
- Receive a building administrator and counselor recommendations
- This application requires submitting responses to prompts about your interest in the Fly SPS program and providing the name and email address of one teacher who will complete a reference form on your behalf. This teacher should be one of your current teachers from the 2026-2027 school year or a teacher from the 2025-2026 school year and teach one of the following content areas: Math, Science, or a CTE course such as Ag, Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, Project Lead The Way Biomedical, Project Lead The Way Computer Science, Project Lead The Way Engineering, Marketing, or Technology Education.
- Have satisfactory attendance and behavior
    - 90%+ attendance average for two years up to the point of application
    - No Out of School Suspension (OSS) for two years up to the point of application
    - No more than four In-School Suspensions (ISS) for two years up to the point of application.
    - No ISS incidents related to violence for two years up to the point of application

- Participate in a scored interview with Springfield Public Schools and Ozarks Technical Community College staff.
- Provide proof of citizenship, following FAA guidelines
- Be able to pass the FAA medical exam

HOW DO I APPLY?

- The application will be linked **on the FlySPS page** at **sps.org/choice** on November 1. The application requires you to submit your name, school, and contact information, as well as your guardian's name(s) and contact information. In addition to these details, be prepared to:
    - **Answer three prompts about your interest in the Fly SPS program.**
    - **Submit the name and email address of one teacher of your choice to provide a reference on your behalf.** This teacher should be one of your current teachers from the 2026-2027 school year or a teacher from the 2025-2026 school year and teach one of the following content areas: Math, Science, or a CTE course such as Ag, Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, Project Lead The Way Biomedical, Project Lead The Way Computer Science, Project Lead The Way Engineering, Marketing, or Technology Education. You should contact this teacher and ask them to serve as a reference for you in the Fly SPS application process.
- The application opens on November 1 and closes on December 1 at 11:59 pm. No late applications will be accepted.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

- **December 1 at 11:59 pm:** Application closes. No late applications will be accepted.
- **By end of 1st Semester:** Students selected through the lottery and reference check will be notified
- **January through early February:** selected students will complete interviews as part of the admission process
- **Late-February:** students will complete the FAA medical exam
- **Late-March (after Spring Break):** students selected to join the program will be notified

WHAT IF I WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- There is an informational session you can attend to learn more about Fly SPS.
    - **Wednesday, October 21 at the Choice Expo, 600 W. Sunshine, Springfield, MO**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When and where are flight labs and classes? Classes and most flight labs will take place in the morning at Springfield-Branson National Airport. Students will attend Fly SPS for a half day, then

spend the second half of their day at their home site. Some additional time outside of the regular school day will be required for night and cross-country flight requirements. Transportation is not provided.

What is the schedule for this program? Students will attend Fly SPS classes in the morning of junior year and senior year. Fly SPS follows the Ozarks Technical Community College Career Center calendar, which means there are days when Fly SPS will be in session and SPS will not, and there are days when SPS will be in session and Fly SPS will not. To preview what this may look like, visit https://academics.otc.edu/calendar/ .

What certificate will you earn at the end of training? At the successful completion of the program, students will have earned a Private Pilot Certificate.

What credits will students earn through this program? Students will earn practical art high school credits as well as dual credit hours toward an Associate Degree in Aviation Flight Technology through Ozarks Technical Community College. More information about the degree can be found at this link.

How long does it take to complete the program? Fly SPS is a five-semester program. Students will be enrolled during fall and spring semesters of their junior year, during the summer as a rising senior, and during fall and spring semesters of their senior year.

- Junior year
- Summer between junior and senior year
- Senior year

What is the total cost? Program expenses are covered by Springfield Public Schools.

How do I get into the program? Fly SPS is a selective admission program and requires that you apply to the program through an application process. You must meet all program requirements. Student selection is based on the following, in this order:

1) Application submission and program requirements met
2) Scoring of prompts within application
3) Lottery selection *(30 applicants selected from across the district)*
4) Scoring of feedback provided by a) selected teacher of reference, and b) building administrator and counselor recommendation
5) Interview of lottery candidates *(15 applicants selected from across the district)*, and
6) Passing the FAA-required medical exam.

What can I provide to show proof of citizenship? Proof of citizenship must be provided for enrollment in Fly SPS. Students must provide proof of citizenship by providing one of the following:

- A valid U.S. passport.
- An original U.S. Birth Certificate [*the one with the raised seal*] AND a valid, unexpired government-issued photo I.D.*
- An original U.S. Naturalization certificate AND a valid, unexpired government-issued photo I.D.*
- An original U.S. Certificate of Birth Abroad AND a valid, unexpired government-issued photo I.D.*
- An original U.S. Certificate of Citizenship AND a valid, unexpired government-issued photo I.D.*

*Examples of government-issued photo I.D.s are driver's licenses, military I.D.s, state identification cards, etc.

What do I need to know about the required FAA medical examination? Students must pass the FAA medical examination and provide their original FAA medical certificate before enrollment in Fly SPS. Below is a list of medical conditions that the FAA has labeled as disqualifying medical conditions.

Many of the medical conditions below can be controlled, and with proof that the disease or condition will not affect your piloting skills or abilities, the FAA can issue a waiver - called a special issuance medical - that would allow you to fly, although there can be additional limitations, such as not flying during certain circumstances or while on specific medications. Most of the time, the situation will require continuous communication with the FAA and your aviation medical examiner. Often, the FAA will require monthly or yearly documentation from a physician, psychiatrist, or other accountable individual documenting that your condition is controlled and remaining stable or improving.

According to the FAA website titled "Pilot Medical Questions and Answers" common disqualifying medical conditions include the following:

- Angina pectoris
- Bipolar disease
- Cardiac valve replacement
- Coronary heart disease that has been treated or, if untreated, that has been symptomatic or clinically significant
- Diabetes mellitus requiring hypoglycemic medications
- Disturbance of consciousness without satisfactory explanation of cause
- Epilepsy
- Heart replacement
- Myocardial infarction

- Permanent cardiac pacemaker
- Personality disorder that is severe enough to have repeatedly manifested itself by overt acts
- Psychosis
- Substance abuse
- Substance dependence
- Transient loss of control of nervous system function(s) without satisfactory explanation of cause.

This is not an exhaustive list of disqualifying conditions.

What kind of airplanes are used for training? Fly SPS is pleased to partner with Premier Flight Center as our flight Provider. Premier's fleet of aircraft are all FAA approved, safe, and high quality. *The planes are small 4-seat aircraft with limited capacities due to weight and balance requirements. Therefore, students who are over 6ft tall or weigh more than 250lbs should check with the flight provider, Premier Flight Center, to determine if arrangements can be made for their training*. For images of Premier's fleet, please visit their website at www.premiersgf.com. Additionally, this program will use Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved flight simulators for honing and developing pilot proficiency.

Is being a pilot a good job to have? Aviation is a great career choice. There are so many opportunities for advancement and job variation that you could never get bored. As the industry grows, there is a great need for not only pilots, but managers, safety officers and inspectors, dispatchers, Air Traffic Controllers, etc. This career field is always developing, always growing, and always exciting!

Is flying difficult? Flying is one of the most rewarding endeavors you can take part in. Like everything that is worth anything, it takes some dedication to learn the vocabulary, master the procedures, and develop the skills to be proficient and safe. More than anything, becoming a pilot takes dedication to push yourself to be the best you can, study and learn, and become part of a supportive community to meet some of the greatest challenges and greatest rewards you have ever had.