

What is the A+ Program all about?



Benefits of the A+ Grant

The A+ Schools Program was created in 1993 by state law as an incentive for improving Missouri's high schools. The primary goal of the A+ Schools Program is to ensure that all students who graduate from Missouri high schools are well prepared to pursue advanced education and/or employment.

The A+ Schools Program is designed to accomplish that imperative. "The A+ Schools Program will mobilize an intensive partnership among high schools, community colleges, students, teachers, parents, labor, businesses, and communities to give these students the motivation, skills, and knowledge to graduate from high school. It will create an innovative and well-designed path from high school to high skill, high wage jobs."

The impact of this program has proven to be phenomenal. There are now 254 designated A+ high schools across the state that have graduated over 77,000 A+ eligible students since the program began in 1997. At least one semester of the A+ Schools Program financial incentive has been utilized by over 38,000 eligible students.

Student Eligibility Requirements



Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the tuition reimbursement.

- Sign an A+ Contract
- Attend an A+ designated school for at least 3 consecutive years prior to graduation.
- Graduate with at least a 6.8975 (2.5 on a 4.0 scale)
- Maintain a 95% attendance rate over all four years of High School.
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid, supervised tutoring
- Maintain a record of good citizenship
- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Register for the Selective Service (if male)
- Have an ACT score of record with the high school, prior to graduation. *
- Complete North County verification documents before Graduation.
- *Beginning with the graduating class of 2015*, score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC**

* See A+ Coordinator if you need assistance in meeting this requirement.

** If student fails to meet the Algebra I end of course requirement, you may regain eligibility by completing your first semester at a participating institution with a minimum of 12 hours and a 2.5 grade point average.

How the Grant Can Be Used

Students who qualify for A+ financial assistance must enroll full time and attend one of the following eligible institutions:

1. Public community college
2. Public vocational or technical school that has received reimbursement under RSMo 160.545.7
3. Private vocational or technical school that is a member of the North Central Association, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008, and maintains such accreditation. The school also must be designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

How to Maintain Eligibility

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements for initial students.
- Maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by your school.
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year. If you are attending an institution that does not participate in Title IV programs you must complete the FAFSA4caster, which is a tool for estimating your level of need for federal financial aid.