

A+ Schools Program

St. Louis Public Schools

St. Louis, MO



Student Handbook

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PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to provide students, parents, faculty, and staff with a clear understanding of the guidelines and policies of the A+ Schools Program as established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. There are many aspects of that law that established the A+ Schools Program that require St. Louis Public Schools to establish guidelines and policies. It is the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinators and all district employees to administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner. All A+ Students must be treated fairly and equitably.

The A+ Schools Program will mobilize an intensive partnership among high schools, community colleges, postsecondary career and technical schools, students, teachers, parents, labor, businesses, and communities to give students the motivation, skills and knowledge to graduate from high school. It will create an innovative and well- designed pathway from high school to high skill, high wage jobs.

The impact of this program has proven to be phenomenal. All but 6 public high Schools in Missouri are A+ Designated. As of 2015 St. Louis Public Schools have graduated 1,347 A+ eligible students since the program began in the District in 2011. There has been a reduction in the drop out rate and an increase in the graduation rate in designated A+ schools as compared to the state as a whole. A+ High Schools are providing more rigorous coursework as a result of the A+ program and students are rising to the challenge. The A+ program has assisted in the development of thousands of successful students state wide.

The A+ Schools Program is not intended to interfere with the student or the student's parent's expectation that the student attend a four year college or university hopefully with a scholarship. The A+ Schools Program is for those students who want to attend an eligible Missouri supported community college or a postsecondary career-technical school virtually free provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature and subject to state funding approval. Several Missouri four year colleges, universities and technical schools are giving eligible A+ students a set amount of money –varying from institution to institution to help defray costs of attending these institutions. Many students are reducing the cost of a four (4) year college education by attending a community college or postsecondary career-technical school with the A+ financial incentive and transferring to the four (4) year college or university with their general education college hours completed thus reducing the time they will need to complete their bachelor's degree at the four (4) year college or university by two (2) years.

Of the current total of approximately 6,800 SLPS students 9-12 we have 2,248 SLPS students 9-12 pursuing A+ Eligibility. Furthermore, 1,347 A+ Eligible Seniors in the graduating classes of 2011-2015 were eligible to attend a public Missouri Community College or Postsecondary Career – Technical School virtually free through the SLPS A+ Schools Program. We expect to add an additional 300 plus students this year to this total. In addition, A+ District Wide A+ Schools Coordinators partnered with St. Louis Community College (STLCC) to conduct Mobile Enrollment in all of our High School. To facilitate this program and MSIP 5 Accreditation we planned and implemented the COMPASS testing district wide. 273 SLPS Students registered at STLCC and we administered the COMPASS to approximately 1,400 SLPS Seniors.

The first step of participation in the A+ Schools Program is the signing of the A+ Schools Application/Agreement by the student and parent/guardian. After the signatures are obtained the student is considered to be an A+ Student at the SLPS High School where they are enrolled. It is then the responsibility of the student to continue to meet the requirements to be certified as an A+ Eligible Student upon graduation.

St. Louis Public School District has a responsibility to achieve and maintain the status of SLPS High Schools as A+ Program Schools. Upon graduation, the A+ Coordinators must certify to the State of Missouri the students who have achieved A+ Eligible status and are eligible for the financial incentives of the program.

It is realized that some students will not be able to meet the requirements set forth in the A+ Schools Program. The A+ Schools Coordinators will notify the student(s) and parents if the student is not eligible for the A+ Schools status.

This manual is designed to present in a clear and consistent manner the guidelines and policies of the A+ Schools Program. Any questions about this manual or the A+ Schools Program should be directed to the SLPS

The A+ Schools Program may provide financial incentives to the eligible A+ Schools Program Student provided state funds are appropriated by the state legislature and state funding is approved. In addition, the A+ financial incentive is available only after the student has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that does not require repayment. Funding of the A+ Schools Program is not the responsibility of the St. Louis Public School District.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this manual is correct at the time of printing; however, changes to this program may occur. Specifically, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has for several years put forward suggested new A+ Schools Program Rule changes each year and this process is unpredictable some rule changes are pending and some have been eliminated. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that questions concerning this program be directed to the district A+ District Coordinator.

GOALS OF THE A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The A+ Schools Program is designed to achieve the three basic goals set forth in the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993.

1. All students graduate from high school;
2. All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations; and
3. All students proceed from high-school graduation to a college, or post secondary career-technical school or high wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

STUDENT INCENTIVE

All St. Louis Public High Schools are designated as A+ Schools by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A+ qualified students graduating from the St. Louis Public High Schools will be eligible to receive the following:

“Tuition and fees for two years, subject to legislative appropriation, to attend any Missouri public community college or postsecondary career-technical school.” Many Missouri four–year colleges and universities are offering scholarships for the students who qualify for A+ financial incentives. See the financial aid office at the college and university you wish to attend for information.

- The A+ tuition incentives will be available **only after** the student has made a documented effort to secure all available postsecondary student federal financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. (See Student Eligibility, PAGE 6)
- The A+ tuition incentives will only be made available to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and general fees after available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds have been applied to those costs.
- Students will be eligible to receive the A+ financial incentive for two years if they maintain a 2.5 GPA in the postsecondary setting.
- Students must complete two years of full-time enrollment at a participating institution within 48 months of graduation from a St. Louis Public High School (see military exceptions).
- Tuition reimbursement is contingent upon availability of state funds. Funding is not the responsibility of the St. Louis Public School District.

Designated A+ Saint Louis Public High Schools include the following:

Beaumont High School; Carnahan High School of the Future; Central VPA High School @ Southwest Complex; Cleveland Junior Naval Academy @ Southwest Complex; Clyde C. Miller Career Academy; Community Access Job Training @ Nottingham; Gateway STEM Academy; McKinley Classical Leadership Academy; Metro Academy and Classical High School; Roosevelt High School; Soldan International Studies High School; Sumner High School; Transportation and Law Academy High School @ Northwest; Vashon High School; Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience; Nahed Chapman New American Preparatory Academy; Griscom High School; Fresh Start @ Meda P (South); Multiple Pathways @ Stevens; Fresh Start @ Sumner (North); Innovative Concept Academy @ Blewett; Virtual Academy @ Gateway; Virtual Academy @ Roosevelt; Virtual Academy @ Northwest; and Virtual Academy @ Sumner.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program (tuition and general fees), a student must be certified as an A+ Eligible student by his/her high school. To qualify, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Complete a written Student Participation Agreement with an A+ High School prior to graduation and have attended a designated A+ High School (s) for at least three (3) consecutive years immediately prior to graduation (see military exceptions).
- Have an overall cumulative attendance rate of at least 95% for grades 9-12 (based on an A+ Attendance Reported by Hours).
- Graduate with a non-weighted, cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale; beginning with the class of 2015, students must “pass” – score proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I EOC Exam to be certified A+ Eligible at graduation – students may retake the official Algebra I EOC Exam more than once (Repeats can be excluded from AYP) prior to high school graduation in order to attain A+ eligibility. Proposed changes to Administrative Rules regarding Algebra I EOC and Algebra I EOC eligibility alternatives proposed by the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) may change. We will notify each graduating class as to the rule changes and eligibility alternatives as they are made available by MDHE.
- Perform at least fifty (50) hours of district-supervised unpaid tutoring or mentoring, - (25% or 12.5 hours of the tutoring/mentoring component can be completed through job shadowing).
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the use of unlawful drugs and/or alcohol.
- Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA) must be submitted and proof of submission must be given to the A+ Coordinator between January 1 and May 15 (if prior to graduation) of the student’s senior year.
- Register for selective service, if applicable. (Males Only – Required within 30 days after 18th birthday). This can be done at www.sss.gov.
- Provide the student’s Social Security Number and full name (including middle). This avoids delays in reimbursements to colleges. These delays may also prevent community college students from enrolling in future semesters. Students without a Social Security Number on file may be denied A+ financial incentives.
- Students who are not United States Citizens may sign up for the A+ Schools Program, but it is up to the postsecondary institution whether they are eligible for A+ funds.
- All required documentation must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator by May 15 (if prior to graduation) of the students’ senior year.

A+ REQUIREMENTS

Student Enrollment

Students are encouraged to enroll in the A+ Schools program when they begin high school as freshmen. However, a student can enroll in the program at any time before graduation. Students who enroll late in their high school careers may have issues with meeting all the student eligibility requirements. A student must be enrolled at an A+ Designated High School for at least three (3) consecutive school years immediately prior to graduation (see military exceptions below). If a student enrolls after September 30th of the student's sophomore year and does not receive first semester sophomore credit from a designated SLPS A+ High School the student must have transferred from an A+ Designated high school to be eligible to receive the A+ financial incentive.

- If a student withdraws or transfers from a SLPS Designated High School after the beginning of their sophomore year, the student will not be considered eligible for the A+ Schools Program **unless the student transfers to another A+ designated high school** in the State of Missouri.
- An A+ Student Participation Agreement (Student Statement of Intent to Participate) must be completed with all appropriate signatures and must be on file in the office of the A+ Coordinator.
- Anyone registering for and requesting A+ Incentives must meet all criteria **dating back to the beginning of their freshmen year**. This includes students attending high school, other than an SLPS High School during their freshmen year.
- Students are encouraged to enroll in the A+ Schools program by January 1 of their senior year to better meet all A+ student eligibility requirements.

Military Exceptions

Exceptions from three year requirement:

- Active Military depends
- Dependents of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year of retirement

Exceptions must attend an A+ high school and meet all other requirements during the school year immediately preceding graduation.

Grade Point Average Requirement

The student must graduate from high school with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 non-weighted scale. The cumulative grade point average is **applicable to all four years** of the student's enrollment in high school. The official transcript will document and certify that the grade point requirement has been attained.

Averaging or rounding up to the next highest grade point is not allowed.

A+ Requirements

Good Faith Effort

The student is required to make a good faith effort to secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.

- Students and parents must complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA summary report must be sent to the community college, postsecondary career/technical school or participating four-year institution that the student plans to attend. Students who do not submit the FAFSA will not be able to access A+ funds at the postsecondary level.
- Students must show documentation (FAFSA page indicating that the student FAFSA has been “processed successfully”) to the A+ Coordinator verifying that the FAFSA form has been filed by May 15 (if prior to graduation) of their year of graduation from high school.
- The FAFSA form is available in the Guidance Office in December of the year of graduation or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Parents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after January 1 of that school year. To be confident that all funds you are eligible to receive free are available you are highly encouraged to complete the FAFSA process no later than the end of January of the graduation year.
- A+ tuition incentives will be awarded to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and general fees after available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds have been applied to these costs.
- Students should be sure to list the community college or postsecondary career/technical school they plan to attend on FAFSA. Students may list up to six schools on the FAFSA. Failing to do so causes unnecessary delays.
- Students using the A+ financial incentives for the summer immediately following graduation should contact the A+ coordinator and district A+ Coordinator as soon as possible during his/her senior year. (Note: Whether the student is able to access the A+ Incentive for summer school is at the discretion of the postsecondary institution.) We do not encourage students to start postsecondary summer school immediately after high school graduation because of potential grade deficiencies jeopardizing their A+ eligibility after the summer semester.
- Mid-year graduates anticipating the use of A+ financial incentives should see the district A+ Coordinator and their A+ Coordinator by October of their graduation year.

A+ REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Requirements

To be eligible for the A+ Schools Program Incentive, a student must have a 95% cumulative attendance (based on an A+ Attendance reported by hours) record during high school. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes. Such a student demonstrates the habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. A student who does not meet the 95% requirement is not eligible for the A+ Financial Incentive. Student and parent signatures on the A+ Student Participation Agreement allow the A+ Coordinator to check attendance records to verify compliance with this requirement. The following attendance school and district guidelines apply to all students participating in the A+ schools Program:

- A cumulative attendance record will be kept from the beginning of the A+ student's freshman year until graduation. (Note: the cumulative A+ attendance rate is reported by hours for eligibility.)
- The high school attendance office keeps the official record of attendance.
- Cumulative attendance information from the official school attendance office will be given to the A+ Coordinator at the beginning of each semester.
- Each semester, the school district will provide to parents/guardians and students, information that includes the student's attendance records.

The attendance rate for student A+ eligibility will be based on student hourly absences from school. Absences will be calculated by subtracting the exempt hourly absences from a student's total hourly absences from school. The following list identifies exempt absences:

- Long term (3 + Days) illness until homebound instruction is in place (requires documentation from the physician).
- Hospitalization (Requires documentation from physician)
- Chronic illness (Requires documentation from physician)
- Funeral for immediate family (Requires documentation by parents or guardians)
- School sponsored activities
- Hours absent marked "M" on the student's attendance history ("Make-up/Exam Day")

Attendance Requirements Continued:

Students who have an A+ Student Participation Agreement will be notified of their status at the end of each semester. Students who exceed the absence limit may appeal to the A+ Appeals Committee. The appeal must be made in writing within thirty school days after the A+ Coordinator sends the notice.

Funeral for non-immediate family members, doctor's appointments, and normal illnesses are not excusable absences for the A+ Schools program.

A student will not receive a waiver if any absence is due to any of the following:

- Truancy
- Skipping classes
- Suspended from class or school for any reason
- Transportation problems (unless you are late on a SLPS school bus)

See A+ Schools Appeal Procedure, Page 14.

Tutoring/Mentoring /Job Shadowing Requirements

To qualify for the A+ Incentive, students must perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring of younger students or students of the same age group – (25%, 12.5 hours of the tutoring/mentoring component can be completed through job shadowing). Students seeking the A+ Incentive must meet the following qualifications prior to beginning a tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing experience:

- Have good citizenship status.
- Have a signed A+ Student Participation Agreement on file.
- Have a signed Liability Release on file if tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing is off campus.
- Commit to 50 hours of tutoring/mentoring (25 %, or 12.5 hours may be job shadowing).
- Sign a contractual agreement (A+ Tutor Guidelines) specifying rules and regulations.
- Provide own transportation and waive school liability if tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing is off campus.

Policies of the Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Program:

- No financial remuneration may be accepted for tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing.
- Tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing must be school-sponsored and completed on St. Louis Public School District premises under the supervision of a St. Louis Public School District employee (tutoring may not be done at an individual's home or a non-St. Louis Public School District school). Exceptions may be allowed for job shadowing.
- An official tutoring log sheet of tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing hours must be kept by the student and signed by the school official in charge of the student. It must be turned in as directed, no later than at the end of the semester in which the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing takes place.
- The official tutoring log sheet must be signed by the school official sponsoring the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing.
- Tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing may be done during the school year or during summer school (when offered).
- Scheduled times for tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing are important and absences should occur only in cases of emergency. Notification of absence must be made to the appropriate supervisors in a timely manner.
- No tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing hours will be accepted after May 15 (if prior to graduation) of a student's senior year.
- Failure to follow the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing procedures may result in dismissal from the A+ Schools Program. The A+ Coordinator or sponsoring school may terminate the tutoring experience at any time.

Citizenship Requirements

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and a unique privilege for St. Louis Public High School students. Students pursuing the A+ Incentive must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs/alcohol.

The A+ Schools Program follows the board approved student code of conduct and appeal procedure for the high school. Any disciplinary action that affects A+ may be appealed within 30 days of notification. If the appeal is not filed within 30 days, the appeal may not be considered. See Appeals Procedure, page 14.

A student may be disqualified if any of the following occur:

- The student accumulates nine (9) days of out of school suspension over four (4) years.
- The student commits a Type I Offense.
- Transfer students:
 1. Transferring student accumulates: six (6) days of out of school suspension over the period of time they are attending a St. Louis Public High School.
 2. The transferring student commits a Type I Offense.

Student and parent signatures on the A+ Schools Participation Agreement will enable the A+ coordinator to check discipline records to verify compliance with this requirement.

1. Certification of good citizenship will be based on the official discipline record maintained in the grade level offices at the high school.
2. The Assistant Principal assigns consequences for infractions of the discipline code and that administrator is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the student's discipline record.

Unlawful Use of Drugs/Alcohol

- An A+ student will not sell, possess, or use any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined by law and stated in the High School Code of Conduct.
- The use of prescription medication prescribed to the student is allowed under Board Policy and established guidelines.
- Students and parents are responsible for understanding and following these guidelines.

Immediate Removal from the A+ Schools Program:

The following offenses will result in immediate removal from the A+ Schools Program:

- Possession, use, sale, or transfer of alcohol, drugs, or narcotics
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Criminal Activity as defined by the Safe Schools Act
- Assault on a student
- Assault, collateral
- Physical threat to staff
- Vandalism/theft
- False fire alarm/bomb threats and misuse of emergency equipment
- Sexual misbehavior/exposure/harassment
- Possession of dangerous items
- Dangerous behavior
- Charged, convicted, or pled guilty in a court of general jurisdiction (Missouri Circuit Court or Federal Court) for the commission of a felony violation of state or federal law.

Because it is impossible to publish all situations that may result in removal from the A+ Schools Program, situations must not be totally in writing to be enforceable. School Administrators, teachers, and other appropriate district personnel and district agents have the authority to control pupil conduct on matters and with methods not in conflict with board policies or legal authorities.

Receiving A+ Status

Monitoring of A+ Status

Following the end of each semester, students who are participating in the A+ Schools Program will receive a letter reporting their progress in each of the required areas. The A+ Coordinator should receive any questions or concerns about the information reported.

Notification of A+ Status

The A+ Coordinator will review all records of A+ Students and names of eligible students will be submitted to the Principal and the Guidance Office for official certification upon graduation. The final A+ Designation letter will be mailed to all graduates within two weeks of commencement. Students receiving the A+ designation will have a notation on their official transcript.

A+ APPEALS PROCEDURE

A student (and/or parent) has the right to appeal when he/she becomes ineligible for the A+ financial incentive due to attendance or citizenship. In cases of appeal, the student must complete the A+ Appeals Form and submit it to the Building Level A+ Coordinator. The Building Level A+ Coordinator shall then convene an Appeals Committee meeting for consideration of the appeal. The Committee shall hear the appeal and return its decision to the student (and parent) by letter within five (5) days of the meeting.

The following outlines the appeal process:

- Students/parents will have thirty (30) days from the receipt of a progress report or disqualification letter to appeal a decision. Anyone making an appeal must use the “Appeal Form” available in the A+ Office.
- Upon receiving a written appeal, the Building Level A+ Coordinator will convene the A+ Appeals Committee.

After the A+ Appeals Committee reaches a decision, the Building Level A+ Coordinator will notify the student/parent by letter. Any and all appeals will be conducted following policies set by the Board of Education.

If the student would like to appeal the decision of the A+ Appeals Committee, the appeal must be made in writing to the building principal within thirty (30) days of the Appeals Committee’s decision.

The Building Level A+ Coordinator will act as a facilitator and a non-voting member of the Appeals Committee.

A+ Appeals Process

A student and parent(s) have the right to appeal when they have been informed that the student is ineligible for the A+ financial incentive due to the student's failure to meet the attendance requirement or citizenship requirement of the A+ Schools Program. In cases of appeal, a student and/or parent must notify the A+ Coordinator, **in writing with the necessary documentation**, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of notification of ineligibility. An appeals committee meeting will be called to review the written request and a decision rendered within five (5) days.

The committee shall read the appeal and return its decision to the student/parents/guardians.

The Appeals Committee shall be made up of:

- Building Level A+ Coordinator (non voting moderator of appeals committee)
- School Principal, Assistant Principal, or designee
- Appropriate Counselor
- Appropriate Teacher

Failure to meet all other requirements of A+ is not subject to appeal.

A+ Attendance Appeal Waiver

One of the requirements of the A+ Schools Program is a cumulative 95% attendance rate (based on hours for grades 9-12) at the time of graduation. At the end of each semester an attendance summary is sent to the parent(s) of each A+ registered student. A request for an A+ Attendance Waiver Appeal of certain missed days must be made to the Building Level A+ Coordinator **in writing** within thirty (30) days of receipt of the summary. The following may be considered as reasons for an appeal and must be supported by official documentation:

Acceptable Reasons for an Appeal Waiver of Absence(s)

- Long term (3 + Days) illness until homebound instruction is in place (requires documentation from a physician)
- Hospitalization (Requires documentation from a physician)
- Chronic illness (Requires documentation from a physician)
- Funeral for immediate family (Requires documentation by parent or guardian)
- School sponsored activities
- Hours absent marked "M" on the student's attendance history ("Make-up/Exam Day")

The following are among reasons that will not be considered for an appeal waiver of absence:

- Truancy
- Vacation
- Suspensions
- Transportation problems (not related to district transportation)

A+ Schools Program

Appeal of Absence Form

Student Name _____ Student # _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____ Date of Appeal Request _____

This request is for appeal of absence(s) for the following;

Semester: First _____ Second _____ School Year: _____

In the space below, please indicate the date(s) of the absence(s) and the reason(s) for the absence(s). Please attach the documentation as requested in the Student Manual. This request must be received by the Building Level A+ Coordinator within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the semester or end of the year attendance summary.

Date of Absence

Reason for Absence

For A+ Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Action Taken: Accepted _____

Denied _____

Date Decision Letter Sent: _____



A+ Citizenship Appeal Form

Student Name _____ Student ID # _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

This request is to appeal an A+ Citizenship violation or to being placed on A+ Citizenship Probation. In the space below, please indicate the date(s) of the disciplinary action and the reason for the request to be reviewed. Please attach any documentation that supports your appeal.

This request must be received by the Building Level A+ Coordinator within thirty (30) days of A+ Citizenship violation or probation. If violation occurs during the last two weeks of a school year, this appeal must be made within three days of the notice of Probation or notice of removal from the A+ Program.

Date of incident(s): _____

Date of Probation/Removal Letter: ____

Justification for appeal:

For A+ Office Use

Date Reviewed _____

Appeal Accepted _____

Date Appeal Committee Met: _____

Appeal Denied _____

Date Decision Letter Sent _____



ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT A+ SCHOOLS STUDENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I _____ have been fully informed of the eligibility requirements for the A+ Schools Program Student Financial Incentives in accordance with the A+ Schools Program at _____ (SLPS High School you are attending). I understand that in order to qualify for eligibility for financial incentives offered by the State of Missouri's A+ Schools Program, I must agree to accomplish all of the following:

- Complete a written Student Participation Agreement with an A+ High School prior to graduation and have attended a designated A+ High School for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation (see military exceptions).
- Have an overall cumulative attendance rate of at least 95% for grades 9-12 (based on A+ Attendance reported hourly).
- Graduate with a non-weighted, cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale; the class of 2016, students must "pass" – score proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I EOC Exam to be certified A+ Eligible at graduation – students may retake the official Algebra I EOC Exam more than once (Repeats can be excluded from AYP) prior to high school graduation in order to attain A+ eligibility. Proposed changes to Administrative Rules regarding Algebra I EOC and Algebra I EOC eligibility alternatives proposed by the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) may change. We will notify the class of 2016 and Subsequent classes as to the rule changes and eligibility alternatives as they are made available by MDHE. **For 2016 a score of 1 on the COMPASS Algebra Subtest will waive the Algebra I EOC requirement. You must choose to start the COMPASS Math Test at the Algebra Level to attain a score of one.**
- Perform at least fifty (50) hours of district-supervised unpaid tutoring or mentoring (25%, 12.5 hours of the tutoring/mentoring component can be completed through job shadowing).
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the use of unlawful drugs/alcohol.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) making a good faith effort to first secure all available federal financial aid that does not require repayment and Selective Service Registration (if applicable).

To maintain eligibility after graduation, I understand that I must accomplish the following during the **forty eight months** period of incentive availability:

- Enroll in and attend a Missouri public community college, or post-secondary career/technical school on a full time basis, Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, Make a good faith effort each year to first secure all available federal financial aid (FAFSA).

This agreement signifies my intent to meet or exceed the above noted eligibility criteria that may allow me to participate in the A+ Student Financial Incentive Program. I understand that if I meet the criteria, the A+ Program may provide for the reimbursement of tuition and general fees assessed to all full-time students to any Missouri public community college, or post-secondary career/technical school, provided state funds are appropriated by the state legislature and state funding is approved. Funding is not the responsibility of the St. Louis Public School District and is contingent on the SLPS High School you are attending being designated an A+ High School.

Student Signature/Date

Parent Signature/Date

A+ Coordinator Signature/Date

Revised: July 2, 2015



SLPS HIGH SCHOOLS A+ PROGRAM ATTENDANCE POLICY

A student must graduate from SLPS High Schools with a 95% cumulative attendance hourly rate to be designated as an A+ student and be eligible for the A+ Schools Program postsecondary financial incentives. The attendance rate is calculated for four years from grades nine through twelve. A student must be enrolled at an A+ Designated High School for at least three consecutive school years immediately prior to graduation (see military exceptions). If a student enrolls after September 30 of the fall term of the student's sophomore year, and does not receive first semester sophomore credit from a SLPS designated A+ High School the student must have transferred from an A+ designated school to be eligible for the financial incentive (see military exceptions) .

Attendance rate for the student eligibility will be based on student absences from school (based on A+ Attendance reported hourly). Absences will be calculated by subtracting the exempt absences from a student's total absences from school. The following list identifies exempt absences:

- Long term (3 + Days) illness until homebound instruction is in place (Requires documentation from physician)
- Hospitalization (Requires documentation from physician)
- Chronic illness (Requires documentation from physician)
- Funeral for immediate family (Requires documentation by parents or guardians)
- School-sponsored activities
- Hours absent marked "M" on the student's attendance history ("Make-up/Exam Day")

Students who have an A+ Student Participation Agreement will be notified of their status at the end of each semester. Students who exceed the absence limit may appeal to the A+ Appeals Committee. The appeal must be made in writing within thirty school days after the A+ Coordinator sends the attendance notice.

Funeral for non-immediate family members, doctor's appointment, and normal illness are not excusable absences for the A+ program.

A student will not receive a waiver if any absence is due to any of the following:

- Truancy
- Skipping Classes
- Suspended from class or school for any reason
- Personal or family vacations
- Transportation problems (unless you are late on a school bus)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

SLPS HIGH SCHOOLS A+ STUDENT INFORMATION (Please Print)

Name _____
First Middle Last

Graduation Year _____ I am Attending _____ High School



Student Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Application

Name _____

Student Number _____

Address _____

Phone _____

High School _____ Graduation Year _____

In order to fulfill the A+ tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing requirement, I will be tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing at/through:

District School Name _____

Other (Specify) _____

Student Requirement/Responsibilities:

1. The St. Louis Public School District discipline code is in effect at the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing site.
2. An interview at the placement site is required before the start of tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing.
3. A liability release and tutoring application form must be signed and returned to the A+ office before beginning tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing (**liability release needed for off campus only**).
4. Student must furnish his/her own transportation to tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing (**off campus only**).
5. Regular and prompt attendance is required.
6. It is the student's responsibility to notify the supervising teacher of any absence.
7. Student will cooperate fully with the supervising teacher, and will treat each other with respect and understanding.
8. Student will dress appropriately for the placement.
9. Student will submit an activity report to the A+ Coordinator (required to report hours) from any tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing placement.
10. Student understands and respects the confidentiality between tutor, supervising teacher and other students involved.
11. The tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing placement must be approved by the A+ coordinator before tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing begins.
12. All fifty (50) hours will be academic in nature; 12.5 hours may be completed by job shadowing.
13. Tutoring must take place on St. Louis Public School District property under the supervision of a certified teacher. Off campus job shadowing sites may be approved by the A+ Coordinator.
14. Training to be a tutor must be completed prior to tutoring.

I understand and accept the opportunities and obligations of the A+ tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing program. I understand that I may be dismissed from the program for the failure to comply with the guidelines of the program.

Student's Signature/date

Parent's Signature/date

Placement Site _____

Site Interview Conducted (Date) _____

Site Supervisor's Signature

Date

A+ Coordinator's Signature

Date

A+ Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Guidelines

A+ Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Guidelines

1. The St. Louis Public School District discipline code is in effect at the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing site;
2. An interview at the placement site is required before the start of tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing;
3. A liability release and tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing application form must be signed and returned to the A+ office before beginning tutoring/job shadowing. The liability release is needed for off campus sites only;
4. Student must furnish his/her own transportation to the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing site if off campus;
5. Regular and prompt attendance is required;
6. It is the student's responsibility to notify the supervising teacher of any absence.
7. Student will cooperate fully with the supervising teacher;
8. Student will dress appropriately for the placement;
9. Student will submit an activity report to the A+ Coordinator (required to report hours) from any tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing placement;
10. The tutoring /mentoring/job shadowing placement must be approved by the A+ Coordinator before tutoring/mentoring /job shadowing begins;
11. All fifty (50) hours will be academic in nature; twelve and one half hours (12.5 hours) may be completed by job shadowing;
12. Tutoring must take place on St. Louis Public School District property under the supervision of a certified teacher;
13. Job shadowing may occur off campus, however the off campus site shall be approved by the Building Level A+ Coordinator;
14. Training to be a tutor shall be completed prior to tutoring;
15. Job Shadowing responsibilities shall be reviewed by the Building Level A+ Coordinator prior to job shadowing.

Tutoring Placement Possibilities

1. Tutoring at your high school during the school year – may include collaborative learning in your class during the school day or in a class you are tutoring in during regular school hours.
2. Tutoring at your high school during summer school.
3. Tutoring at another SLPS high school if your assigned high school has no summer school.
4. Tutoring AVID classes at SLPS middle schools.
5. Tutoring during or after school at SLPS high schools for advanced placement (AP) classes.



A+ Schools Program

Student Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Activity Report

A+ Students must perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing; Twelve and one half hours (12.5 hours) may be completed by job shadowing. Tutoring/mentoring must be one-on-one, on district property, under the direction of a certified teacher, and academic in nature. Job Shadowing may occur at an off campus site but must be approved by the Building Level A+ Coordinator.

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing activities for the week of _____, 20__

Date of Activity	Location	Start Time	End Time	Total Hours	Description of Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing Activities	Staff Signature

Total Hours _____

Student's Signature

Date

Return this form to the A+ Coordinator's office.



A + Schools Program Student Tutoring/ Job Shadowing Activity Report 2015-2016

A+ Students must perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring; 12.5 hours may be completed by job shadowing. Tutoring must be one-to-one, on district property, under the direction of a certified teacher, and academic in nature. Job Shadowing may occur at an off campus site, but must be approved by the Building A+ Coordinator.

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Circle One	Date	Room/Location	Start Time	End Time	Total Hours	Job/Peer Circle One	Staff Signature
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job /Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job /Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job /Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job /Peer	
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job /Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job /Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job /Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job /Peer	
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job/Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job/Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job/Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job/Peer	
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job/Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job/Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job/Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job/Peer	
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job/Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job/Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job/Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job/Peer	
A/B/C Day			7:10	8:43		Job/Peer	
			8:48	10:21		Job/Peer	
			10:26	12:29		Job/Peer	
			12:34	2:07		Job/Peer	

Total Hours: _____

Student Signature

Date

Return this form to the A+ Coordinator's Office

A Days 8/17,19,24,26; 9/2,9,14,16,21,23,28,30; 10/5,7,12,14,19,21,26,28; 11/2,4,9,16,18,23,30; 12/2,7,9,14,16; 1/4,6,11,13,20,25,27; 2/ 1,3,8,10,17,22,24,29; 3/ 2,7,9,14,16,28,30; 4/4,6,11,13,18,20,25,27; 5/2,4,9,11,16,18,23,25.
B Days 8/18,20,25,27; 9/1,3,8,10,15,17,22,24,29; 10/1,6,8,13,15,20,22,27,29; 11/3,5,10,12,17,19,24; 12/1,3,8,10,15,17; 1/5,7,12,14,19,21,26,28; 2/2, 4,9,11,16,18,23,25; 3/1,3,8,10,15,17,29,31; 4/5,7,12,14,19,21,26,28; 5/3,5,10,12,17,19,24.
C Days 8/21,28;9/4,11,18,25;10/2,23,30;11/6,13,20;12/4;1/8,15,22,29;2/5,12,19;3/4,18;4/1,8,15,22,29;5/6,13,20.



Liability Release for A+ Tutoring/Mentoring/Job Shadowing
(Only complete if you go off campus to conduct tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing)

Student Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____
Street City Zip

SLPS High School Attending _____

As the parent(s) of _____, I/we understand that he/she will be required to furnish his/her own transportation to the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing site. I/we also certify with my/our signature(s) that the St. Louis Public School District, _____ High School, its administrators, teachers, or the tutoring/job shadowing sponsor(s), will not be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to my son/daughter while going to or from the tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing site, or while at the site.

I/We further authorize my child to be admitted into a hospital or facility for medical treatment, if necessary while participating in this program. I/We do further accept the responsibility for the payment of expenses related to that treatment.

By signing the medial release and hold harmless form, I/we release the St. Louis Public Schools from any and all claims and causes of actions for damages to or loss of property or personal injury while my/our son/daughter is participating in the program.

Parent(s) Signature(s)

Date

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Name _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date of Status Review _____

Assuming state funds are available, you meet A+ criteria for A+ Student Eligibility and your SLPS High School continues as an A+ Designated high school, you can be eligible to receive reimbursement for your unpaid balance of the cost of tuition, and general fees subject to legislative appropriation by the state of Missouri after federal post-secondary financial assistance funds have been applied to attend any Missouri Public Community College or Postsecondary Career-Technical School. This is on condition that you meet the following requirements.

_____ 1) Complete and provide appropriate signatures on an A+ **Student Application/Agreement**;

_____ 2) Attend an A+ designated Missouri High School for **three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation**. Student must be enrolled in an A+ high school and receive first semester credit for their sophomore year (see military exceptions);

_____ 3) Graduate with a non-weighted, cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale; beginning with the class of 2016, students must “pass” – score proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I EOC Exam to be certified A+ Eligible at graduation – students may retake the official Algebra I EOC Exam more than once (Repeats can be excluded from AYP) prior to high school graduation in order to attain A+ eligibility. Proposed changes to Administrative Rules regarding Algebra I EOC and Algebra I EOC eligibility alternatives proposed by the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) may change. We will notify the class of 2016 and subsequent classes as to the rule changes and eligibility alternatives as they are made available by the Missouri Department of Higher Education; **for 2016 a score of 1 on the COMPASS Algebra Subtest will waive the Algebra I EOC requirement. You must choose to start the COMPASS Math Test at the Algebra level to attain a score of one.**

_____ 4) Graduate from a SLPS High School with a cumulative hourly **attendance record of 95% or better**; (**May be Appealed**)

_____ 5) Perform at **least fifty (50) hours** of district-supervised unpaid tutoring/mentoring (12.5 hours of the tutoring/mentoring component can be completed through job shadowing);

_____ 6) Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of unlawful use of drugs and alcohol; (**May be Appealed**)

_____ 7) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) making a good faith effort to first secure all available federal financial aid that does not require repayment; (The student must turn in the FAFSA document to us that says they have been “Processed Successfully” to be eligible)

_____ 8) Registered for Selective Service - Completed if applicable;

_____ 9) Student has completed the Admission Application and taken the COMPASS assessment for Community College Placement.

Designation indicators used: Yes-(Y), No-(N), In Progress- (IP) To Be Done- (TBD)

Student Signature _____ Date _____ Parent Signature _____ Date _____

A+ Status Reviewer _____ Date _____

(Once your parent has signed please return to your school’s A+ Coordinator)

A+ Eligible Missouri Public Two-Year Community Colleges

[Crowder College](#)

[East Central College](#)

[Jefferson College](#)

[Metropolitan Community College](#)

[Mineral Area College](#)

[Missouri State University – West Plains](#)

[Moberly Area Community College](#)

[North Central Missouri College](#)

[Ozarks Technical Community College](#)

[St. Charles Community College](#)

[St. Louis Community College](#)

[State Fair Community College](#)

[State Technical College of Missouri](#)

[Three Rivers Community College](#)

<http://dhe.mo.gov/publicandindependent-colleges.php>

A+ Eligible Missouri Public Career and Technical Schools

Arcadia Valley Career Technical Ctr

Boonslick Technical Educ. Center

Brookfield Area Career Center

Cape Girardeau Car & Tech Center

Car. & Tech. Center At Ft. Osage

Carrollton Area Career Center

Carthage Technical Center

Cass Career Centerp

Clinton Technical Sch.

Columbia Area Career Center

Crowder College

Current River Career Center

Dallas County Career Center

Davis H. Hart Career Center

East Central College

Eldon Career Center

Excelsior Springs Career Center

Four Rivers Career Center

Franklin Technology Center

Gibson Technical Center

Grand River Technical Sch.

Hannibal Career & Tech. Center

Herndon Career Center

Hillyard Technical Center

Kennett Career & Tech. Center

Kirksville Area Tech. Center

Jefferson College

Lake Career & Technical Center

Lamar Area Voc.-Tech. Sch.

Lebanon Tech. & Career Center

Lewis & Clark Career Center

Lex La-Ray Technical Center

Linn State Technical College

Macon Area Voc. Sch.

Metropolitan Community College

Mineral Area College

Missouri State University - West Plains

Moberly Area Community College

Moberly Area Technical Center

Nevada Regional Tech.-Ctr.

New Madrid R-I Tech Skills Ctr

Nichols Career Center

North Central Career Center

North Central Missouri College

Eligible A+ Community Colleges and Vocational Technical Schools

North Technical

Northland Career Center

Northwest Technical Sch.

Ozark Mountain Technical Center

Ozarks Technical Community College

Pemiscot Co Career & Tech Ctr

Perryville Area Car & Tech Ctr

Pike/Lincoln Technical Center

Poplar Bluff Tech. Career Center

Ranken Technical College

Rolla Technical Inst.

Saline Co. Career Center

Sikeston Career & Tech. Center

South Central Career Center

South Technical

Southwest Area Career Center

St. Charles Community College

St. Louis Community College

State Fair Community College

Three Rivers Community College

Unitec Career Center

Warrensburg Area Career Center

Waynesville Technical Academy

<http://dhe.mo.gov/documents/EligibleApl>

A+ Eligible Private Technical School

Ranken Technical College

www.ranken.edu

