

# REFERENCE COPY

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## EXPLANATION: A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

This procedure was amended to comply with new requirements created by Senate Bill 638 (2016), which allows nonpublic schools to participate in the A+ Scholarship Program. The revised law now requires public school districts to include in the district's partnership plan any nonpublic schools located in the district that have chosen to participate in the program.

This procedure has also been amended to comply with revised regulations (6 C.S.R. 10-2.190) from the Coordinating Board of Higher Education regarding A+ eligibility.

The "records" section is a standard part of the procedure that is not part of this district's procedure. MSBA recommends adding this section so that the district can monitor program outcomes.

|  |   |                            |                      |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>MSBA recommends that copies of this document be routed to the following areas because the content is of particular importance to them. The titles on this list may not match those used by the district. Please forward copies to the district equivalent of the title indicated.</i> |   |                            |                      |
| Board Secretary  |   | Business Office            | Coaches/Sponsors     |
| Facility Maintenance   |   | Food Service               | Gifted               |
| Human Resources  | X | Principals                 | Library/Media Center |
| Health Services  | X | Counselor                  | Special Education    |
| Transportation   |   | Public Info/Communications | Technology           |

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## A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Savannah R-III School District will follow the requirements as established by state law and regulations for the administration of the A+ Schools Program. The district's A+ Schools Program coordinator is:

High School Guidance Counselor  
701 State Hwy E  
Savannah, MO 64485  
Phone: 816-324-3128  
Fax: 816-324-4578

### Eligibility Report

By June 30 of each year, the A+ coordinator will submit, in the appropriate core data report, a list of the names of all graduating, certified A+ students eligible to receive financial assistance. To be eligible, a student must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or otherwise lawfully present in the United States.
2. Attend a designated A+ high school for three years immediately prior to graduation. Enrollment at all A+ designated high schools attended during the three-year period immediately prior to the student's graduation must total a minimum of 80 percent of the instructional days required by the high school from which the student graduates. Interruptions in enrollment cumulatively totaling no more than 20 percent of instructional days in the three-year period may occur consecutively or intermittently.

A student who is an active duty military dependent or a dependent of retired military personnel who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of retirement from active duty is excused from this provision the requirement to attend a designated A+ high school for three years immediately prior to graduation if the student attends a designated A+ school in the school year immediately preceding graduation and has met all other eligibility requirements.

3. Graduate from a designated A+ high school with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent on another scale.
4. Have at least a 95 percent attendance record overall for grades 9–12. Any student appropriately counted for average daily attendance will be considered as in attendance, whether physically present or not.

5. Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to 25 percent may include job shadowing, prior to high school graduation. However, the district may make an exception and extend the time for completing this requirement on a case-by-case basis when there are circumstances beyond the student's control that prevent him or her from completing this requirement. The length of the extension will be determined by the district but will not exceed six months beyond high school graduation.
6. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs, as defined by district policy, while in grades 9–12.
7. Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2015, meet one of the following: Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I end-of-course exam or a higher-level, DESE-approved, end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics, or meet other criteria established by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education, unless the district has met all of the DESE requirements for a waiver of the Algebra I end-of-course exam for the recipient:
  - ~~Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I end-of-course exam or a higher-level, DESE-approved, end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics;~~
  - OR**
  - ~~As a high school or postsecondary student, have achieved a qualifying score, as established annually by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, on the COMPASS exam published by ACT, Inc., or the mathematics component of the ACT test.~~
8. Prior to graduation, enter into a written agreement with the district to participate in the A+ Schools Program.
9. Meet any additional eligibility requirement set out in state law.

### **Appeals**

If the coordinator determines that a student who has submitted a participation agreement has violated the terms of that agreement or district policies or procedures regarding A+ participation, he or she will notify the student in writing. The notice will include a statement of which condition was violated and the facts constituting the violation. The student will be provided copies of documents or other evidence supporting the determination. The student may be put on probation or expelled from the A+ Schools Program by the coordinator.

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The student may appeal an expulsion from the program to the Board of Education, or a committee created by the Board, by notifying the coordinator within five working days of receiving the notice. The coordinator will provide notice of the appeal to the Board along with a copy of the reason for the expulsion. The Board or the Board's committee will hear the student's appeal in closed session within 20 working days of having received the notice of appeal. The Board will notify the student of its decision in writing within five working days of hearing the appeal.

## Receipt of Funds

In order to receive A+ financial assistance, an eligible student must:

1. Make a good-faith effort to secure all sources of federal funding that could be applied to tuition reimbursement.
2. Be admitted and enrolled at a participating institution on a full-time basis in accordance with law unless the student is enrolled in all the available hours applicable to the student's program of study in a given term, the student is participating in a required internship, or the student is enrolled in prerequisite courses that do not require full-time enrollment.
3. Not be enrolled in or intend to use the award to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.
4. Not have a criminal record preventing receipt of federal Title IV student financial aid.
5. Meet the institution's definition of satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution's policies and law.
6. Meet the course completion standards as required by law.

## Records

The coordinator will be responsible for gathering and maintaining data on:

1. Student demographics and enrollment.
2. Student completion and performance of coursework.
3. The number of students who continue their education at four-year colleges and universities, community colleges and career/technical schools.
4. The number of students who enter the labor force.

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5. The number of students who enter military service.
6. A+ Schools Program outcomes.
7. The relationship of the partnership plan to student success.
8. Student eligibility for A+ financial incentives.

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*Note: The reader is encouraged to review policies and/or forms for related information in this administrative area.*

Implemented: 08/14/2012

Revised: 02/24/2015;

Savannah R-III School District, Savannah, Missouri