

Missouri A+ Schools Program

Missouri's Outstanding School Act of 1993 established provisions for the implementation of a grant award program to institute A+ Schools and improve the education of high school student within the State of Missouri. Beginning in 1994, the A+ Schools program has provided grant awards to Missouri's public school districts that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that the Program's goals are met in their high schools. The goals are that all students:

1. Graduate from high school.
2. Complete a selection of high school classes that is challenging and for which there are identified learner expectations.
3. Proceed from high school to a college, technical college, or a high wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.

The New Bloomfield Measurable Objectives include:

All students graduate from high school

1. The New Bloomfield High school's attendance will increase by 1% until it reaches 95% or higher.
2. Persistence to Graduation will increase each year by 1% until it exceeds 95%.

Complete a selection of high school classes that is challenging and for which there are identified learner expectations.

1. The number of high school Juniors and Seniors enrolled in dual credit or advanced courses will increase each year by 1% until it reaches 75%.
2. Increase the number of student using A+ funds for college reimbursement, this does not include those who are using A+ eligibility for scholarships. Some colleges and universities offer up to \$1000 for A+ status.

Proceed from high school to a college, technical college, or a high wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

1. The number of students completing high school and continuing on to four year schools, technical colleges, or high ways jobs with workplace skill development opportunities will increase each year by 1% until the district average is 90%.

High Schools that apply for the grant award must outline a plan that includes innovative activities to make progress toward achieving these three goals. Activities include: building partnerships that include the high school, post secondary schools, businesses, industries, community organizations, parents and students; providing student with the motivation, skills and knowledge to graduate from high school; integrating academic and vocational learning; and preparing student to select a career path focus and a program of study designed to meet academic standards established by the local school district.

The New Bloomfield R-III High School was awarded an A+ Schools grant in each of the school years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002. The school received A+ Designation in the school year 2002.

The funding for the financial incentive is dependent upon New Bloomfield R-III High School maintaining its A+ Schools status and the availability of state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

A+ Schools Program Requirements

The student financial incentive part of the A+ Schools Program provides for applicants who meet the following requirements to be eligible for state reimbursement on partial cost of tuition while attending any Missouri public community college or post-secondary vocational or technical school as a fulltime student.

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus/documents/ResourceBook2007-08.pdf> These costs will reimbursable only after secured federal financial assistance funds, that do not require repayment, have been applied. The incentive will be available for up to two year of attendance during the four – year period following high school graduation.

Requirement 1: Enter into a written agreement with the high school to participate in the A+ Schools Student Financial Incentives Program.

A student may enter into the agreement at any time during his/her last three years of high school. Due to the requirement to accumulate tutoring/mentoring hours, it is recommended that the agreement be signed as early as possible.

Requirement 2: Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation.

A student must attend an A+ High School during his /her sophomore, junior, and senior years. The student incentive is dependent upon New Bloomfield R-III being re-designated each spring. Enrollment should be completed by October 1st of the Sophomore year.

Requirement 3: Graduate from high school with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

This average will represent the applicant's cumulative GPA that includes the freshman through senior year.

Requirement 4: Have at least a 95% attendance record for the four-year period.

The applicant must have a 95% or better average attendance record for the four-year period, freshman through senior years. A student with a 94.9 percent or lower average will not be eligible. (See APPENDIX Homebound Instruction Application.)

Requirement 5: Perform and document 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring to younger students during the last three years of high school.

The following guidelines should be followed in the completion of these requirements:

1. All tutoring and mentoring activities will be designed to involve the applicant with lower grade students in the School District.
2. Tutoring and mentoring activities will provide encouragement to lower grade students to set goals, stay in school, and strive for good grades.
3. Tutoring and mentoring activities will be school-based on school grounds, academic in nature, and under the supervision of certified school personal. A list of approved tutoring/mentoring activities is provided to each A+ applicant.
4. The tutoring and mentoring activities may occur before, during, or after the school day.
5. All tutoring and mentoring must be supervised and verified by a teacher, principal, counselor, or the A+ Coordinator.
6. The A+ Coordinator will maintain records of tutoring/mentoring hours that each applicant accumulated. Only activities that have been verified with a time sheet signature by the tutoring supervisor will be counted toward the 50 hour requirement. (See APPENDIX for a copy of tutoring log.)

Requirement 6: Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs.

In the effort to set forth the parameter of “good citizenship”, the New Bloomfield R-III High School A+ Program participants should understand that the following guidelines will be followed in order to be eligible for A+ benefits. (See Good Citizenship Requirement)

The student will be required by the post-secondary institution to make a good faith effort to secure federal post-secondary student financial assistance fund.

During the applicant’s senior year, he/she will be required to complete an application for securing federal post-secondary financial assistance. Reimbursement from the state will be given only after federal finds that do not require repayment have been applied to the tuition cost at state 2-year college/vocational school attendance.

The student will be required by the post-secondary institution to Register for Selective Service, if applicable.

Male students must register for Selective Service when they turn 18 years of age.

Good Citizenship Requirement

The state, which funds the A+ Schools Program, and the district view the A+ Schools’ benefits as an incentive program and therefore hold the student to a higher standard. This standard requires the student to be their best academically and a good citizen. A student may lose his/her A+ Schools incentive eligibility for any of the following:

1. Unlawful use of drugs.
 - A. Alcohol or Controlled Substances-Possession of and/or the use of on or outside school grounds, which results in a conviction (assessed fine(s) or ticket, time served, ISS, OSS or community service).
 - B. Tobacco-Possession of and or the use of on school grounds which results in an OSS, ISS or expulsion.
 - C. Other drugs or drug paraphernalia-Possession of, or use of on or outside school grounds, which results in conviction (assessed fine or ticket, time served, community service, OSS, ISS suspension or expulsion).
2. Any incidence of violence as defined by the “Safe School Act”(see DESE web site
<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/schoollaw/LegFolder/HB1301&1298.htm>)

and/or included in the Student Handbook which results in a conviction (assessed fine, time served, community service, ISS, OSS, or expulsion).

Prior to his/her graduation, each student will be required to sign a document that states they have not violated any of the above requirements before A+ eligibility is granted.

Students may appeal a decision when they have lost eligibility by the process listed below. Student should bear in mind that items 1-3 above have been required by the state since the beginning of the A+ Schools legislation. Therefore, an appeal of these items would be futile and not approved.

Appeals Process

The students and/or their parents may appeal a decision that will affect their student's A+ eligibility within 15 days of notification. This must be done in a letter of appeal to the A+ Schools Coordinator. Students must do this yearly. They will not be allowed to appeal problems from previous years. This letter should state the reason they wish to appeal and include all documentation of support.

The A+ Coordinator will set an appeal committee meeting within 10 business days of receiving the letter. The committee will include the guidance counselor, the principal, three high school teachers of the student's choice and the A+ Coordinator as a non-voting member. The documentation provided from parents and students will be reviewed. The decision of the committee will be final.

The A+ Coordinator will notify the student/parents by letter within five calendar days following a decision by the committee. If further appeal is necessary, due process guidelines must be followed starting with the Superintendent.

The state attendance requirements are very specific. The State Board of Education says no exceptions to the 95% attendance requirement. If a student is ill or injured, home schooling should begin immediately.

****Timeframes will be counted by business days and postmarks.**

Agreement

New Bloomfield R-III High School A+ Schools Program

Student _____

As a student of New Bloomfield High School, a designated A+ high school, I agree to abide by the district's A+ policies and procedures and the following conditions so that upon successful completion I will be considered a certified A+ graduate. I agree to:

1. Attended a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation;
2. Graduated from high school with a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
3. Maintained at least a 95% attendance record for the four year period;
4. Performed 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for other students
5. Maintained a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs;

I understand that failure to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if required, the U.S. Military Selective Service registration, will jeopardize the receipt of A+ financial incentives.

I understand that to maintain eligibility during the four-year period of incentive availability I must:

1. Be enrolled in and attend full-time a Missouri public community college or career/technical school.
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Make a good-faith effort to first secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds.

I understand that disclosure of my Social Security number is optional, and that if I disclose this number it will be used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the purposes of determining my eligibility to receive A+ funding and to make payments to the career/technical school or community college I attend. I further understand that failure to disclose my Social Security number may result in delay in the receipt of A+ funds. My Social Security number is:

_____.

This agreement is entered into this ____ day of _____, 20_____.

Permission is hereby given for the release of A+ Schools Program information, including student records, to the institutions chosen by the student as well as to DESE, as required by law.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

A+ Tutoring Log

Weekly tutoring log

Student Name _____

Week of _____

Class _____

	Time arrived	Time Left	Activity	Teacher
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				

Statement of Good Citizenship

To the best of my knowledge, I _____
(student's name)

Have not broken any of the rules for compliance with A+ Good
Citizenship Requirement as listed in the A+ Student Handbook.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

A+ Coordinator's Signature

Date

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION-COMPLIANCE

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION – Documentation Form

**DESE no longer
requires districts to
submit this
application. For
District use only.**

I. STUDENT INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Student with an IEP		<input type="checkbox"/> Nondisabled	
Date of Application:			<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Extension
			(Circle One) 1 2 3
Type of Application:		<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Suspension/Expulsion	<input type="checkbox"/> Reevaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Student:		DOB:	Grade:
Name of Parent/Guardian:			
Home Address:			
II. SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION			
1. Teaching completed by:		<input type="checkbox"/> Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Home teaching
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
2. Estimated total length of homebound services:			
Name of Teacher	Social Security Number	Area(s) of Certification	
Legal Name of Educational Agency	District Contact Person	Telephone	Fax
Address	City	State	Zip Code
III. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION (To be completed by Director/Coordinator of Special Services)			
1. Are you requesting a reevaluation?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, enclose copy of Notice of Reevaluation)
2. Has the IEP Team met?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, date: _____)
3. Has this student been suspended or expelled?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, enclose copy of Change of Placement and Manifestation Determination)
4. Is this student not attending due to a court injunction?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, attach copy of court order)
IV. MEDICAL INFORMATION (To be completed by Physician)			
1. Does condition prevent student from maintaining school schedule?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Medical or Psychological Diagnosis: If pregnant, please indicate due date: _____			
3. Number of weeks student will require homebound:		Date of hospitalization:	
4. Recommendations and explanations of diagnosis: (NOTE: In the case of emotional disorders, a treatment plan should be designed to encourage the re-entry of the student into regular school environment as soon as possible.)			
Signature of Physician		Date	Print Physician's Name

Address of Physician	State	Zip	Phone
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Indicate Area of Licensed Specialty:

M.D.
Psychiatrist

D.O.
Psychologist

V. CERTIFICATION (To be completed by the School District)

I certify that a need for homebound service exists and the provision of homebound instruction is the most appropriate educational alternative at this time.

Superintendent or Authorized Representative

County/ District Code

Date

The district must maintain a copy of the application on file for a period of 5 years. These applications will be monitored as a part of the district's Special Education MSIP Review. For Homebound applications requiring Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approval, a letter will be returned to the district for their records.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Mail or fax form to the school district where the child is enrolled.
NOTE: In the case of emotional disorders, a treatment plan should be designed to encourage the re-entry of the student into regular school environment as soon as possible

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

DESE no longer requires districts to submit this application.
Districts may choose to use this form as documentation in the child's file. If you have question, please contact Special Education Compliance at 573-751-0699.