

A+

The A+ Program in the Blue Springs School District



Starting with the Graduating Class of 2008



Background...

* In an effort to make college or vocational education available to every Missouri high school graduate, the Missouri General Assembly established the A+ Schools Program as part of the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993.



Outcome...

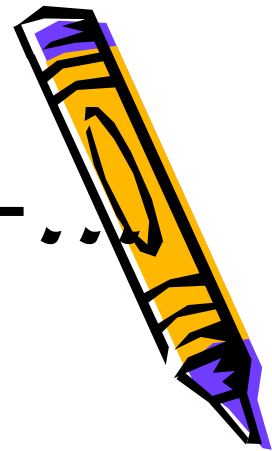
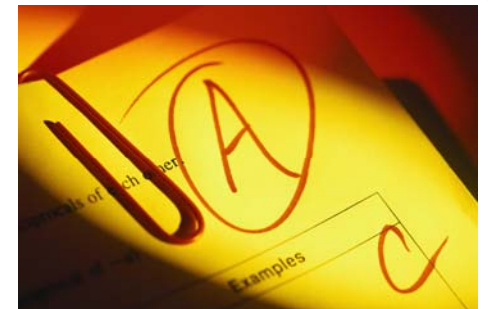


* Graduates of designated A+ schools who successfully complete the requirements of the program may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis for two years. (Starting with the class of 2008) *This incentive is dependent on state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly and the Blue Springs schools passing the onsite review during 2007-2008.*



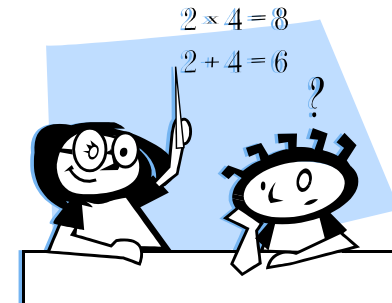
Student Requirements for A+...

- Attend a designated A+ school for three consecutive years (grade 10-12) prior to high school graduation.
- Graduation from high school with an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate with a 95% ADA (Avg. Daily Attendance) record for grades 9-12.



Student Requirements Cont....

- Perform and document 50 hours of unpaid district tutoring or mentoring coordinated through the school's A+ office.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol



Student Requirements Cont....

- Apply for non-payback scholarship by completing FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).



Frequently Asked Questions about A+



When does a student sign up for A+?

- There is no specific date requirement for signing the agreement. Students need to remember that in order to access A+ funds post high school, they need sufficient time to complete the eligibility requirements prior to graduation. A+ enrollment forms are available in the Counseling Office.



How does a student qualify for participation in the A+ program?

- Sign A+ Agreement paperwork (3 pages)
- Attend a designated A+ high school for three years prior to graduation
- Graduate with a cumulative 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 Scale
- Graduate with a 95% Attendance Rate (averaged over a 4 year period)
- Maintain a good record of citizenship, which includes the avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol, as defined by the school board's policy.
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available post secondary student financial assistance funds (Pell Grants/SEOG) that do not require payment.
- Male students must register for selective service.



Does participating in the A+ Program restrict a student's choices?



- Participating in the A+ Program DOES NOT in any way restrict a student's educational choices. The A+ Program is designed to provide greater opportunities for students. Signing up will not restrict the options available to a student while in high school or upon graduating from high school.



What if an A+ participant decides to attend a four-year college or university?



- There are no repercussions for participating in the A+ program and completing the requirements. Many students will develop plans to attend a 4 year college or university following high school. Students eligible for A+ benefits may choose to attend a community college for two years, earn an Associates Degree then transfer those credits to a 4 year university. A student who participates in the A+ Program is not required to attend a community college or vocational/technical school.



A+ Program Status



- The Class of 2008 are the first students who are eligible for A+ tuition benefits.
- 2005-2006
 - 674 students were enrolled in the A+ Program.
- 2006-2007
 - 1115 Students currently enrolled in the A+ Program (35% of students 9-11).
- A+ Students are tutoring younger students in nearly every building in the district.



*For additional information and/or
an application please visit with...*

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