

Policy JFCL: A+ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Status: DRAFT

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24C UPDATE EXPLANATION

In House Bill 604 (2019), the Missouri legislature approved the use of A+ funds to reimburse high school students for the costs of dual credit and dual enrollment courses, subject to appropriation. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) has now released regulations to implement the new law. See 6 C.S.R. 10-2.195.

Because there are different eligibility criteria for students seeking tuition reimbursement for dual credit and dual enrollment courses than for courses taken after graduation, the MDHEWD has decided to reserve the A+ moniker for the post-graduation scholarship program to reduce confusion and now refers to the other program as the Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.

To avoid confusion, MSBA has included dual credit/dual enrollment in policy IGCE and is removing the references to it in this A+ policy.

In addition, MSBA has modified the definition of "good citizenship" to allow students who have not been suspended for more than ten days between grades nine and twelve to qualify. Districts are free to modify this suggestion.

The district encourages its students to further their education and training after they graduate from the district. For that reason, the district will participate in the state A+ Scholarship Program to provide students an opportunity to pursue postsecondary education at a low cost or earn college credit while in high school. The district will follow the requirements as established by state law and regulation for the implementation and administration of its A+ SchoolsScholarship Program.

The district shall employ an A+ SchoolsProgramScholarship coordinator, as required by law. The coordinator will be responsible for implementing this policy and the Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.

Program Goals

The district has established the following goals and performance standardsis committed to ensuring that:

1. All students graduate from high school.
 - 100% of those students in the A+ Scholarship Program will 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.
 - 100% of those students in the A+ Scholarship Program will complete a rigorous selection of high school curriculum.
3. All students proceed from high school graduation to a college, postsecondary career-technical school, or high-wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.
 - 100% of those students in the A+ Scholarship Program will enroll in a college, post-secondary institution or high-paying career in a technical field complete with workplace development.

Citizenship Component

An important component of the A+ SchoolsScholarship Program is the fostering of good citizenship in our district's students. A sStudents demonstrates good citizenship by showing respect for self, law, property, and the rights of others. Students have not demonstrated good citizenship if, while in grades nine through twelve, they have:

1. Pled guilty or *nolo contendere* (no contest) to, received a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended execution of sentence for, agreed to a deferred prosecution for, or been convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony.

2. Unlawfully used or possessed drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on or off school property.
3. ~~Had an out-of-school suspension~~ Been suspended for more than ten days.
4. Violated the district's rules governing academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.).

Participation Agreement, Discipline, and Appeal

All students wishing to participate in the A+ Schools Scholarship Program for postsecondary education after high school must submit a completed A+ Participation Agreement. 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, the coordinator will notify the student in writing and may put the student on probation or expel the student from the program. The student or the student's parents/guardians may appeal expulsions from this program, in accordance with written district procedures, to the board of education or to a committee of board members appointed by the president of the board and given the authority to act for the board. The board or the board's committee will hear the student's appeal in closed session and will notify the student of its decision.