

JOPLIN HIGH SCHOOL

A+ SCHOOLS STUDENT MANUAL



“MAKING A DIFFERENCE
ONE STUDENT AT A TIME”



MRS. SUE DAY
A+ COORDINATOR

DESIGNATED A+ SCHOOL
SINCE 1998
BY THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION TO THE A+PROGRAM
FROM
DR. KERRY SACHETTA
PRINCIPAL

The purpose of this manual is to provide a clear understanding of the various aspects of the A+ Schools Program as established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. There are many aspects of the law that established the A+ Schools Program that require Joplin Schools to establish guidelines. It is the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinator to administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner. All students participating in the A+ Schools Program must be treated fairly and equitably.

The first step of participation in the A+ Schools Program is the signing of the A+ Schools Student Program Agreement by the student and parent/guardian. After all signatures are obtained the student is considered to be a Joplin Schools A+ Schools participant. It is then the responsibility of the student to continue to meet the eligibility requirements to be certified as an A+ Student upon graduation.

Joplin Schools has a responsibility to maintain the status of Joplin High School as an A+ School. It is the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinator to certify to the State of Missouri the students who have achieved the status of A+ Student upon graduation. It is realized that some students will not be able to meet the requirements as set for the in the A+ Schools Program. It will be the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinator to notify the students and parent/guardian immediately if it is determined that a student is not eligible for A+ Schools status. This manual is designed to present in a clear and consistent manner the guidelines and policies to be followed by the A+ Schools Coordinator.

This booklet is provided for parent/guardian, students, and employees of Joplin Schools so that a clear understanding of the requirements for becoming an A+ Student is achieved. Any questions about this manual or the A+ Schools Program should be directed to Ms. Sue Day, A+ Schools Coordinator, at Joplin High School, 417-615-5230, ext 3011, or by email at sday@joplin.k12.mo.us.

Kerry Sachetta

Kerry Sachetta, Ed. D.
Principal
Joplin High School

MISSION STATEMENT

EVERY JOPLIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO PROGRESS INTO A HIGH PAYING JOB, TECHNICAL TRAINING, OR A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE TO BECOME A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY.

GOALS OF THE A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- All students will graduate from high school
- All students will complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and has identified learning expectations
- All students will proceed from high school graduation to a four-year college or community college or postsecondary vocational/technical school, or high wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

Benefits for Joplin High School students

- Comprehensive Guidance
- Work-place readiness
- Selection of context-based course work (classes that teach “real world” applications)
- Reward for “good citizenship”
- Tutoring/mentoring opportunities
- Work-site job shadowing
- Dual credit and articulated credits to many colleges
- Career Pathway scheduling
- Educationally appropriate technology access
- Attendance and GPA monitoring
- At-risk student intervention services
- Tutoring opportunities and credit recovery

BENEFITS OF THE A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

In April 1998, Joplin High School was designated by the Missouri Department of Education as an A+ School. This entitles our graduates who have met the A+ requirements to receive reimbursement for tuition and fees to any Missouri public community college, vocational/technical school for two-years or the completion of a one year certificate program through a vocational/technical school.

Tuition, fees, and up to 50% of required book expenses, pending funding from the State of Missouri to any community college or public vocational/technical school in the State of Missouri, will be paid through the A+ reimbursement program (beginning in June 2003). The tuition incentives will only be made available to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and fees after available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds, including scholarships, have been applied to those costs.

The tuition incentive is for two years. To be eligible to receive the tuition incentive, the recipient must:

- Be considered a FULL-TIME student by the institution
- Complete the two years of full-time enrollment at a community college or a public vocational/technical school within FOUR years after graduation from high school

Students will be eligible to receive the above incentive for two years if they maintain a 2.5 GPA in the post secondary setting.

Other benefits to being in the A+ Schools Program

- The A+ seal will be placed on the high school transcript
- Students will be recognized at graduation
- Students will have the opportunity to tutor

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The Student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or lawfully present in the U.S.
- Sign a letter of intent prior to high school graduation
- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation
- Graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC exam or a higher level DESE approved EOC exam, or achieve qualifying scores on the COMPASS exam, or ACT test in the field of math
- Maintain at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9 -12
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring, of which up to 25% (12 hours) may include job shadowing
- Maintain a record of “good citizenship” and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment

Algebra I Eligibility Requirement

1. All students, beginning with the Class of 2015, will be required to score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (EOC) to qualify for the A+ Schools financial incentive.
2. Any student who fails to score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC exam will have the option to:
 - Score proficient or advanced on a higher level end of course exam (i.e., Geometry, or Algebra II) OR
 - Establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the COMPASS exam published by ACT, Inc. or Mathematics component of the ACT test.
3. A student may achieve the qualifying score as a high school or post secondary student. If the student does not meet the Algebra I eligibility requirement by high school graduation, the student will have to pay for his/her first semester of college tuition and meet the guidelines of the college institution to acquire A+ certification for the following semester. Guidelines may include 12 hours minimum load, 2.5 GPA, required math course, etc. All other requirements of the A+ Schools program (GPA,

tutoring, attendance, and citizenship) will have to be met at the high school level before the college option will be made available.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To meet the required three-year prior to graduation rule the student must enroll in the Joplin School District no later than the FALL term of the student's SOPHOMORE year. There are only two exemptions to this rule. The first applies to transfer students and the second applies to military families. A student may transfer to Joplin High School from another A+ school, or meet the exemption for military families as listed on the Joplin High School A+ Schools Program Agreement.

If a student withdraws or transfers from Joplin Schools after the beginning of the sophomore year, the student will not be considered eligible for the A+ Schools Program, even if that student re-enrolls before graduation. The exception to this rule is the student who attended another A+ School within the transfer time period.

GRADE POINT REQUIREMENT

The grade point average is "cumulative" and reflects all credits earned for the four years of high school, grades 9-12.

The student's official transcript will serve as evidence of grade point average for admission into a public community college or public vocational/technical school.

STATUS NOTIFICATION

The A+ Schools Coordinator will notify A+ seniors of their eligibility status at the beginning of the student's 8th semester (i.e., January of the senior year). Parent/guardian should monitor student's grades and attendance on Campus Portal.

TUTORING MENTORING REQUIREMENTS

A+ Schools participants may begin the tutoring/mentoring component of the A+ Schools Program when they have met the following guidelines:

- Accumulated at least a 2.4 grade point average
- Accumulated a 95% attendance record
- Recognized as a good citizen by the school

Student may tutor during summer school after completing the 9th grade, or through the Cadet Teaching program or Teacher Advisory Program their senior year.

The following policies will be used by the A+ Schools Coordinator in determining this requirement:

- Tutoring/mentoring must be school sponsored

- Official record of hours sheet must be kept by the student and turned in at the beginning of each month
- The official record of hours must be signed by a Joplin Schools employee (cooperating teacher, secretary, or principal)
- Tutoring/mentoring may be done during the school year or during summer school
- All tutoring/mentoring must be done under the supervision of a Joplin Schools teacher
- The A+ student or the sponsoring school may terminate the tutoring/mentoring experience with the permission of the A+ Schools' Coordinator.
- All tutoring/mentoring experiences must start before February 15 of the A+ student's senior year

The student is expected to be present at the agreed upon day and time for tutoring/mentoring.

JOB SHADOWING POLICY

The A+ Schools program at Joplin High School supports job shadowing opportunities initiated by the parent/guardian and students in cooperation with the school. Since the purpose of the A+ program is to encourage student to reach a higher level of education beyond high school, job shadowing opportunities should be those that require a certificate or degree.

- The job shadowing experience may count a maximum of 12 hours toward the 50 hour tutoring/mentoring requirement of the A+ Schools program.
- A student will be allowed to miss one school day for pre-approved job shadowing. This will be recorded as a school activity and will not count towards absence totals for the course credit or A+.
- Job shadowing must be pre-approved by the A+ Coordinator.
- The completed job shadowing request form must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator 10 calendar days prior to the desired job shadowing experience.
- The student must return a signed job shadowing follow-up form to the A+ Coordinator within 10 calendar days of the job shadowing experience.
- The job shadowing must be with a certified or degree bearing individual/position.
- The student/parent/guardian is responsible to contact and set up the job shadowing experience.
- The student may not job shadow with a parent/guardian, sibling, or other primary relative or guardian.
- Only direct job shadowing time may be counted (i.e., cannot count lunch or travel time).
- The student or parent/guardian will be responsible for transportation to and from the job shadow site.
- The student must arrive promptly at the pre-arranged time and remain until dismissed by the job shadow host.
- The student must dress professionally and appropriately for the job.
- The student will complete tasks assigned by the host and abide by all safety guidelines.
- Summer job shadowing must be pre-approved before the last day of school. The signed follow-up form must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator within the first 10 days of school.

RECORD-KEEPING

Forms will be provided from the A+ office for students to record their tutoring times. All hours must be logged on the provided forms, and A+ students will be responsible for ensuring that the signed forms are turned in to the A+ office to be entered and filed. The students may log their own hours, however, the cooperating teacher/supervisor must sign the log to verify the hours tutored.

If the student plans to tutor at different sites he/she is encouraged to keep a separate log for each site.

If the student has lost, misplaced his/her log, they must have their cooperating teacher verify their hours at that site. If verification is not available, the student must make those hours up at a later time.

TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Students helping other students at JHS: Tutoring opportunity is offered after school with specific teachers in their classrooms.

Cadet Teaching: Seniors can take the class for high school credit. Students tutor in elementary, middle school, or JHS classrooms. Students can enroll in the class during their junior year for their senior year schedule.

Non-Credit A+ Tutoring: Seniors can enroll in the class as a Teacher's Assistant and assist the teacher as an A+ tutor. The class is for non-credit. Students can enroll in the class during their junior year for their senior year schedule.

Summer School: Students can complete tutoring hours during the summer at elementary and middle schools. Ms. Day will announce this opportunity at the end of the school year. Sign up in May to tutor during summer school.

TREK: A+ tutors are paired one-on-one with an elementary student to tutor math and reading one night a week. The commitment starts the first month of school and lasts until April 1.

Other opportunities: The requirement for sites to be included in A+ Tutoring is there must be a Joplin Schools employee present to verify hours. The purpose of the program is to ensure that "all students" graduate from Joplin Schools.

STUDENT FILES

A file is kept in the A+ office on each student entering into the A+ Schools Agreement. In each file the following documentation is kept:

- Signed A+ Schools Program Agreement

- Student record form
- File notes
- Completed tutoring hours sheets
- Copies of correspondence with student and/or parent/guardian

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The cumulative attendance information given to the A+ Schools Coordinator will come from the official attendance record kept by Joplin High School.

The cumulative attendance record will be kept from the beginning of the A+ student's freshman year until graduation. This includes information from other A+ schools the student attended (9-12) and non-A+ schools the student may have attended during his/her freshman year.

The parent/guardian may file an appeal on an A+ Schools "Appeal of Absence Form" if the student's attendance falls below 95 percent. The parent/guardian of an A+ student choosing to file an appeal should use the A+ Schools "Appeal of Absence Form" included in this handbook. The A+ Coordinator will then convene an Attendance Review Committee. The student will remain in the program until the Attendance Review Committee makes a decision. The Attendance Review Committee will consist of the student's assistant principal, counselor, and the A+ Coordinator. To appeal a decision of the Attendance Review Committee, the offending student or parent/guardian of the offending student may contact the Joplin School District in writing within ten (10) days of the decision to announced an appeal. The Superintendent will review the findings of the Attendance Review Committee and the appeal made by the student's parent/guardian and issue a ruling within ten (10) days. A final appeal may be made in writing the Joplin Schools Board of Education; their decision will be final.

Students with specific health histories must make sure that the medical documentation of chronic or long term health-related problems are on file with the school nurse and such health-related problems shall be considered in a possible review situation. Catastrophic illness, log hospitalizations and serious accidents will be considered in reviewing the attendance policy.



APPEAL OF ABSENCE FORM



STUDENT NAME _____ DATE _____

STUDENT'S GRADE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE NUMBER _____

In the space provided below, please indicate the date(s) of the absence and the reason for the request to be reviewed. The back of this form may be used for additional space. Please attach the documentation as requested in the A+ School's Student Manual. Please forward this form to the A+ School's Office within one (1) month of the end of the semester.

DATE OF ABSENCES

REASON FOR ABSENCES

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

ATTENDANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

A+ COORDINATOR

JHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

_____ APPEAL GRANTED

DATE _____

_____ APPEAL DENIED

DATE _____

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship is demonstrated by respect for school, community, and self

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and unique privilege for Joplin High School students. Students participating in the A+ Schools program must maintain a record of “good citizenship” to remain in the A+ Schools program.

- An A+ student will not sell, possess or use any controlled substances as defined by law unless prescribed by a licensed physician. (This includes drugs and alcohol.)
- Citizenship Certification will be based upon the cumulative discipline record of the student as determined by the Assistant Principal in charge of discipline for the respective A+ student. Any offense outlined in the Safe School Act will result in immediate dismissal from the program. The Assistant Principal to whom the A+ student is assigned will recommend either continued certification or withdrawal from the A+ Schools Program.
- After receiving this information, the parent/guardian will have thirty (30) days to file an appeal with the A+ Schools Coordinator. If an appeal is not filed within thirty (30) days of notification, the student will be dropped from the A+ Schools Program.
- The parent/guardian of an A+ student choosing to file an appeal should use the A+ Schools Program “Appeal of Citizenship Form” included in this manual. The A+ Coordinator will then convene a Discipline Review Committee. The student will remain in the program until the Discipline Review Committee makes a decision. The Discipline Review Committee will consist of the student’s Assistant Principal, counselor, and the A+ Coordinator. To appeal a decision of the Discipline Review Committee, the offending student or parent/guardian of the offending student may contact Joplin Schools in writing within ten (10) days of the decision to announce an appeal. The Superintendent will review the findings of the Discipline Review Committee and the appeal made by the student’s parent/guardian and issue a ruling within ten (10) days. A final appeal may be made in writing to the Joplin Schools Board of Education; their decision will be final.

The following offenses will result in the Assistant Principal recommending immediate withdrawal from the A+ Schools Program:

- Possession of/or using, selling, or transferring of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Assault/rape/sexual misconduct
- Arson/fire extinguisher/false alarm/false 911 report
- Possession of weapon (real or look-a-like)
- Vandalism
- A continuous pattern of any one or combination of discipline referrals



APPEAL OF CITIZENSHIP FORM



STUDENT NAME _____ DATE _____

STUDENT' S GRADE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE NUMBER _____

THIS REQUEST IS TO APPEAL THE REMOVAL OF MY SON/DAUGHTER FROM THE A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM BECAUSE OF HIS/HER FAILURE TO MEET THE GOOD CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFENCE:

WHY THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO REGAIN THEIR A+ SCHOOLS STATUS:

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

CITIZENSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

A+ COORDINATOR

JHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

_____ APPEAL GRANTED

DATE _____

_____ APPEAL DENIED

DATE _____

NOTIFICATION OF A+ STATUS

The A+ Coordinator will review all records of A+ students. Names of eligible students will be submitted to the principal for official certification at graduation.

GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO SECURE FUNDING

Parent/guardian must complete and send in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA information must be sent to the community college or public vocational/technical school that the student is planning to attend.

The FAFSA worksheet is available on the web at www.fafsa.gov.

Parent/guardian are encouraged to apply as early as possible, but not before January of their student's senior year. Proof of filing is required before the A+ grant will be awarded by the community college or public vocational/technical school.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

A+ students who are 18 and male must sign up for selective service by the end of their senior year of high school. If the student is not 18 by graduation, and he is using A+ Schools funds, he must sign up when he turns 18 and inform the A+ Coordinator at the college and /or technical school he is attending.

**THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS ACCEPT THE
A+ SCHOOLS GRANT**

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES OFFERING A+ SCHOLARSHIPS/INCENTIVES*

The following Missouri four-year colleges have A+ scholarships NOT FUNDED by the State of Missouri available. These scholarships are competitive and the A+ Schools senior needs to apply for these early. Please contact the college or the internet for more information.

College Name	City
Avila University	Kansas City
Central Methodist	Fayette
Columbia College	Columbia
Drury University	Springfield
Fontbonne University	St. Louis
Kansas City Art Institute	Kansas City
Lindenwood University	St. Charles
Missouri Southern State University	Joplin
Missouri State University	Springfield
Missouri Western State University	St. Louis
Missouri Valley College	Marshall
Northwest Missouri State University	Maryville
Park University	Parkville
Southeast Missouri State University	Cape Girardeau
Stephens College	Columbia
Truman State University	Kirksville
Webster University	Several Locations
William Woods University	Fulton
University of Missouri-Kansas City	Kansas City

*This list may be incomplete. Contact individual colleges and universities to inquire about A+ scholarships and any further qualifying conditions. All scholarships require that students have successfully completed the Missouri A+ Schools Program in high school.

**MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ACCEPTING A+ BENEFITS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

College Name	City
Blue River Community College	Independence
Business & Technology College	Kansas City
Crowder College	Neosho
East Central College	Union
Jefferson College	Hillsboro
Longview Community College	Lee's Summit
Maple Woods Community College	Kansas City
Mineral Area Community College	Park Hills
Missouri Western State University	St. Joseph
North Central Missouri College	Trenton
Ozarks Technical Community College	Springfield
Penn Valley Community College	Kansas City
Southwest Missouri State University	West Plains
St. Charles County Community College	St. Peters
St. Louis Community College - Florissant	St. Louis
St. Louis Community College - Forest Park	St. Louis
St. Louis Community College - Meramec	St. Louis
State Fair Community College	Sedalia
Three Rivers Community College	Popular Bluff

MISSOURI TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
ACCEPTING A+ BENEFITS & SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL NAME	CITY
Boonslick Technical Education Center	Boonville
Brookfield Area Career Center	Brookfield
Cape Girardeau Career and Technical Center	Cape Girardeau
Career and Technology Center	Fort Osage
Carrollton Area Vocational-Technical School	Carrollton
Cass Career Center	Harrisonville
Clinton Technical School	Clinton
Columbia Area Career Center	Columbia
Current River Area Vocational School	Doniphan
Dallas County Area Vocational-Technical School	Louisberg
Davis H. Hart, Mexico Vocational School	Mexico
Excelsior Springs Area Career Center	Excelsior Springs
Four Rivers Area Vocational-Technical School	Washington
Franklin Technology Center	Joplin
Gibson Technical Center	Reed Springs
Grand River Technical School	Chillicothe
Hannibal Career and Technical Center	Hannibal
Joe Herndon Technical School	Raytown
Kennett Area Vocational-Technical School	Kennett
Kirksville Area Technical Center	Kirksville
Lake Career and Technical Center	Camdenton
Lamar Area Vocational School	Lamar
Lebanon Technology and Career Center	Lebanon
Lewis and Clark Career Center	St. Charles
Lex La-Ray Technical Center	Lexington
Macon Area Vocational-Technical School	Macon
Moberly Area Technical Center	Moberly
Nevada Regional Technical Center	Nevada
Nichols Career Center	Jefferson City
North Central Vocational-Technical School	Harrison
North County Technical School	St. Louis
Northland Career Center	Platte City
Northwest Technical School	Maryville
N.S. Hillyard Technical School	St. Joseph
Ozark Mountain Technical Center	Mountain Grove
Perryville Area Career and Technical Center	Perryville
Pike/Lincoln Technical Center	Ealia
Poplar Bluff Technical Career Center	Poplar Bluff
Rolla Technical Institute	Rolla
Saline County Career Center	Marshall
Sikeston Career and Technology Center	Sikeston
South Central Area Vocational-Technical School	West Plains
South County Technical School	St. Louis
Southwest Area Career Center	Monett
Tri-County Technical School	Eldon
Warrensburg Area Vocational-Technical School	Warrensburg
Waynesville Technical Academy	Waynesville
West County Technical School	St. Louis

REMINDERS

- A+ students must be enrolled full-time in a program of study at any Missouri public community college and/or vocational/technical school.
- A+ students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. If a student's cumulative GPA drops below 2.5 they would no longer be eligible to receive A+ funds until the overall GPA is 2.5 or higher.
- Students must apply for non-repayable federal financial aid (FAFSA/SEOG) each subsequent year of eligibility.
- A+ financial incentives must be used within four years of high school graduation.

The financial incentives offered by four-year institutions are not part of the A+ Program. They are simply based on being A+ certified. Contact the individual college to ask questions or to inquire about A+ Scholarships and Awards they may offer.

For more school information and updates go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus/collegecoord.htm>.

If you have any questions please contact your guidance counselor or the A+ Coordinator at Joplin High School, 417-625-5230.



JOPLIN HIGH SCHOOL

A+Schools Program Agreement

Students graduating from a designated Missouri A+ School may qualify to receive financial assistance for tuition and fees to attend a Missouri community college or technical school or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools. As a Joplin High School student you may be eligible for these incentives. The state of Missouri agrees to:

- Reimburse the cost of tuition and general fees for up to two years
- Accept enrollment in any Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school
- Guarantee the incentives for a period of four years after the student graduates from high school

Eligibility requirements

The student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or lawfully present in the U.S.
- Sign a letter of intent prior to high school graduation
- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation (*See notation on back)
- Graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC exam or a higher level DESE approved EOC exam, or achieve qualifying scores on the COMPASS exam, or ACT test in the field of math (*See notation on back)
- Maintain at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9 - 12
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring, of which up to 25% (12 hours) may include job shadowing
- Maintain a record of “good citizenship” and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment

Postgraduate responsibilities

The student must:

- Attend on a full-time basis a participating MO public community college or technical school or private 2-yr vocational/technical school
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Seek a degree or certificate at the community college or vocational/technical school and not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity
- Apply for federal post-secondary student financial assistance during subsequent semesters

This agreement signifies that it is my intent to meet or exceed the above noted eligibility criteria that will allow me to participate in the A+ Schools student financial assistance program. I further understand that if I qualify and provided funding is available, the State of Missouri will pay the cost of tuition and general fees for me to attend any Missouri public community college, vocational or technical school. I understand that I must make a good faith effort to secure federal assistance that does not require repayment. The A+ program may provide these educational incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature and is subject to state funding approval.

Student Signature

Parent /Guardian Signature

Date

Please Print Student Name

Expected Graduation Date

High School Principal

A+ Schools Coordinator

Date

ALGEBRA I ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the class of 2015, all students are required to score advanced or proficient on the Algebra I end of course (EOC) exam to qualify for the A+ Schools Financial incentive. Any student who fails to reach this level of proficiency will have the option to:

- Score proficient or advanced on a high level end of course exam (i.e., Geometry, or Algebra II) OR
- Establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the COMPASS exam published by ACT, Inc. or Mathematics component of the ACT test

A student may achieve the qualifying score as high school or postsecondary student. If the student achieves the score at the postsecondary level the student may be eligible for the award in the same term that he/she takes the test. The MDHE (Missouri Department of Higher Education) will announce the qualifying COMPASS and ACT scores annually.

EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

If the student's parent(s) is a member of the military on active duty or has retired from the military and relocated to Missouri within one year the student is exempt from the following requirement:

- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation

However, the student must attend an A+ designated high school in the school year immediately preceding graduation and meet all high school eligibility requirements.

*Joplin Schools must attain the three A+ School goals and complete the program requirements or make significant progress to maintain the A+ status. Therefore, the student financial incentive program is dependent upon meeting these required qualifications and state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

**The tuition incentive will be made available only after the student has made a documented good faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance.

***A+ funds are credited to a student by his/her social security number.

****Full benefits of the Missouri A+ Scholarship are available to students who fall under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).