

GRANDVIEW



A +



PROGRAM

Eligibility

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for tuition benefits:
ATTEND AN A+ SCHOOL FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS PRIOR TO GRADUATION. (Grades 10-12)

- Graduate with an unweighted, unrounded cumulative GPA of a 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate with at least a cumulative 95 percent attendance record.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the use of alcohol and unlawful drugs.
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring to other students in our district (This includes Lonedell/Richwoods).
- Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by February 1 of their senior year. This is the State DEADLINE. Seniors may submit their FAFSA starting October 1 of their senior year. Once A+ Funding has been activated, the student must meet the following criteria to maintain A+ eligibility.
- Attend a Missouri Community College or post-secondary vocational/technical School on a full time basis and maintain GPA of 2.5 or greater.
- Score of Proficient or Advanced on Algebra 1 or higher level math, EOC or achieve a combined ACT math score and GPA in accordance with the following scale:

| ACT MATH | AND | GPA |
|----------|-----|----------------|
| 17 | | 2.5 or greater |
| 16 | | 2.8 or greater |
| 15 | | 3.0 or greater |
- All Males who reach age 18 must register with Selective Service.

Grade Point Requirements

- A+ participants must graduate with a CUMULATIVE unweighted, unrounded grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- It is the responsibility of the A+ participant to closely monitor his/her grade point average. Final determination of eligibility cannot be made until an A+ participant graduates and his/her final GPA is calculated.

Attendance Guidelines

Participants in the A+ program are expected to attend school regularly. Students must graduate with a cumulative average daily attendance (ADA) of at least 95% for grades 9-12.

The A+ Program makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Attendance is based on Monday through Friday when school is in regular session. Only

the days and times, which are calculated for Average Daily Attendance (ADA), will be used to determine the 95% attendance requirement.

The A+ attendance policy provides for an appeal process in cases where the absence was beyond the control of the A+ participant. Request for Attendance Waivers must be filed in accordance with the established policy guidelines. Each A+ participant should read and understand the attendance policy.

It is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance.

Attendance Waiver Guidelines

Students enrolled in the A+ program who have become ineligible due to falling below the 95% accumulated attendance percentage will be notified in writing the Spring of their Senior year. Upon receiving the written notification students may elect to file an Attendance Waiver between April 1st and April 15th, they will be required to provide documentation to support absences in excess of the 5% allowed. Samples of acceptable documentation are:

- Hospitalization – Physician Letter
- Chronic Health Problems – Physician Letter
- Court Appearance – Court Letter
- Funeral – Parent Letter and copy of Death Certificate, obituary or memorial pamphlet
- Religious Holiday – Minister Letter
- Personal/Family Calamity – Parent and school counselor letter
- Catastrophic Illness/Injury – Physician Letter

A+ attendance requirements are not to be confused with the general attendance requirement as printed in the Grandview Student Handbook.

Attendance Appeals

Students in the A+ Program who feel they have been unfairly declared ineligible may appeal to the A+ Schools Appeals Committee. In cases of appeal the student/parent/guardian must notify the A+ Schools Coordinator or Counselor in writing of his/her intent to appeal within 10 days of receiving an ineligibility letter. An A+ Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal within 10 days of receiving a written request and return its decision to the student in writing. The A+ Schools Appeals Committee will consist of the following individuals: Principal, Counselor, Teacher, one other faculty member and A+ Secretary or Coordinator. The principal will facilitate the appeal.

Appeals will be considered at semester or the end of the school year when the student is declared ineligible.

Students may appeal the A+ Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.

Citizenship Guidelines

To be eligible to participate in the Grandview A+ Schools Program requires certain behaviors and attitudes. Specifically, students who participate in the A+ Schools Program must be good citizens and be judged so by the proper school authority. A student whose character or conduct is such as to discredit him/herself or his/her school is not considered a good citizen. His/her conduct shall be satisfactory in accordance with the standards of good discipline. Students who participate in the A+ Schools Program should remember not only the financial rewards, but also the individual discipline and responsibilities that come with it.

The following criteria regarding the school's discipline policy will serve as a measurable indicator of respect for self, school, and good citizenship:

Criminal Activity: Students who are convicted of a felony will not qualify.

Substance Abuse: Students shall not possess or use alcoholic beverages or controlled substances. Any violation (possession, use, manufacture, sale, or transportation) that results in suspension (ISS or OSS) will result in loss of eligibility for the program.

Suspensions: Students will lose A+ eligibility if they accumulate **five (5) days** of suspension (ISS or OSS) during their high school career for offenses other than alcohol, drugs, or violations of the Safe Schools Act.

Violations of Safe Schools Act: Students who are disciplined in accordance of the Safe Schools Act of 1996 will be removed from the A+ Schools Program. These violations include, but are not limited to, assault, weapons, possessions, and drug distribution.

DUE PROCESS: Students in the A+ Program who feel they have been declared ineligible unfairly may appeal to the A+ Schools Appeals Committee. In cases of appeal the student/parent/guardian must notify the A+ Schools Coordinator or School Counselor in writing of his/her intent to appeal within 10 days of receiving an ineligibility letter.

An A+ Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal within 10 days of receiving a written request and return its decision to the student in writing. The A+ Schools Appeal Committee will consist of the following individuals: Principal, Counselor, Teacher, one other faculty member, and A+ Secretary or Coordinator. The principal will facilitate the appeal. Appeals will be considered at semester or the end of the school year when the student is declared ineligible.

Students may appeal the A+ Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.

Tutoring Guidelines

A+ participants must perform a minimum of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring. The tutoring/mentoring must be:

- Coordinated through the Counselors Office
- Performed under the supervision of Grandview approved sponsors.
- Performed at a site approved by Grandview.
- Performed with Grandview R-II, Lonedell or Richwoods students.

Guidelines

- *A+ participants must receive tutoring/mentoring approval from the A+ Coordinator or Counselor prior to engaging in tutoring/mentoring activities.*
STUDENTS SHOULD BRING THEIR TUTOR LOG SHEET TO THE GUIDANCE DEPT. TO HAVE THE LOG SHEET SIGNED BEFORE EACH ACTIVITY IS DONE.
- Tutoring/mentoring time must be documented on the A+ Student Tutor Log. (The log sheet is available from the Counselor's office).
- These will be given to the student when they sign up for tutor assignment. Additional logs will be available in the Counselors Office.
- Tutoring/mentoring activities are to be conducted in a controlled, disciplined, and orderly manner and only for as long as the experience is productive and necessary.
- Participants should consider themselves guests of the schools, sponsor and supervising teacher and should conduct themselves in accordance with all rules, regulations, and guidelines in the student handbook. A+ participants that do not meet the behavioral expectations of the supervising teacher or sponsor during any portions of the tutoring experience risk forfeiture of tutoring opportunities.
- *The signature of the supervising teacher or sponsor must verify all tutoring/mentoring time. Tutoring/mentoring time must be recorded and verified on the A+ Student Tutoring Log that is available in the Counselors Office.*
STUDENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL; AND/ OR UNVERIFIED TUTORING ACTIVITIES DOCUMENTED ON FORMS THAT ARE LOST OR NOT TURNED IN.

Students who take it upon their own to "miss" any days of the set schedule will be considered as **skipping**.

Students are not allowed to **drive** to other buildings during school to complete A+ hours.

Absolutely **NO Cell Phone** use is permitted while mentoring/tutoring for A+ hours.

If the rules are not followed, the following discipline will be enforced:

removed from assigned A+ mentor hours

No assistance granted to gain mentor/tutor hours **during school time**.

Tuition Benefits

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the A+ Program may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition and general fees while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school. General fees are defined as those fees that are paid by all students (parking and activity fees). Special program fees (laboratory, uniforms, and equipment) are not included in the A+ tuition benefits. A+ students are under no obligation to use the A+ tuition benefits. The benefit is earned by each individual student and is not transferable to any other student.

- Receipt of private scholarships will not affect an A+ participant's eligibility for tuition benefits.

- Financial need is not a factor in determining an A+ participant's eligibility for A+ tuition benefits. However, an A+ participant is required to complete a FAFSA to make sure he/she is not eligible for any non-payback financial aid.
- Participants will have up to four years from the date of their high school graduation to access their A+ tuition benefits.
- The A+ Program may provide these educational incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature. It is important that students, parents, and guardians know that they may have a greater responsibility to pay for these expenses in coming years. If implemented, students currently attending post-secondary institutions and using A+ tuition benefits would have the same restrictions.

Using the A+ Grant Benefits

Missouri Community Colleges

Several 4-year colleges offer their own incentives to entering freshmen that graduate with A+ status:

Accessing Tuition Benefits

It is critical to the integrity of the A+ Program that A+ participants pay strict attention to all the guidelines, rules and policies that govern the program. Some control is given to local school districts in establishing policy and administering the A+ Program. Most of the rules governing the administration of the program are found in state statute and are not subject to local amendment. The tuition benefits are not automatically bestowed on A+ participants who have successfully completed the A+ requirements. To be eligible for tuition benefits the following guidelines must be followed:

- The Counselor will verify the status of each A+ participant and certify each A+ participant who is eligible for A+ tuition benefits.
- A+ participant will be notified, in writing, as to approval or denial of A+ tuition benefits. If a participant is denied tuition benefits the participant will be provided with reason for the denial.
- The names and social security numbers of the A+ graduates eligible for tuition benefits will be forwarded to the appropriate local and state agencies.
- A+ eligible graduates must inform the post-secondary institution to which they have made application of their intent to use the tuition benefits. The institution will prepare the necessary paperwork and bill the State of Missouri.

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

A+ participants and their parents must complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid with the government. The information reported on the FAFSA is required by post-secondary institutions to complete the enrollment process. Financial need is not a factor in determining student eligibility for the A+ tuition benefit. However, an A+ participant is required to complete a FAFSA to make sure he/she is not eligible for any non-payback financial aid. FAFSA data can be submitted on line at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or call 1-800-433-3243 for a paper copy.

FAQs

- What does signing the A+ Agreement mean?

By signing and submitting the A+ Agreement, students and their parents are simply indicating an interest in participation and verifying that they understand the requirements that qualify the students for the A+ Schools Program.

When an agreement has been signed by all parties and returned, a file will be established for that student and will be located in the A+/Counselors office. This file denotes the student's active participation in the A+ Schools Program and will contain all pertinent information relative to the student's eligibility for A+ funds.

- What are the participation requirements for the A+ Schools Program?

Students must sign an A+ agreement to the effect that they will:

- Attend an A+ school for three consecutive years.
- Graduate with a minimum 2.5 cumulative unweighted GPA.
- Graduate with a minimum 95% cumulative attendance rate.
- Be good citizens at school and in the community.
- Avoid the use of illegal drugs including alcohol.
- Perform a minimum of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring in the Grandview School District.
- Make a documented (FASFA), good faith attempt to secure free federal education funding.
- Register with selective service. (If required by law).
- 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+ Schools 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 is meant by graduating with a 2.5 cumulative unweighted GPA?

To be eligible for the tuition reimbursement benefit, students must complete all studies (grades 9-12) and graduate with a cumulative unweighted GPA of not less than 2.5. For A+ purposes, the GPA is not rounded. In other words, the minimum acceptable GPA is 2.5 and 2.4999 does not round up to 2.5.

- What happens if a participant falls below the required 2.5 during any one grading period?

The key word is (cumulative). A student's GPA may drop below 2.5 during a grading period and the student is still considered part of the A+ program. The final GPA will not be calculated until after graduation and at that time, the cumulative GPA must be a minimum unweighted, unrounded 2.5.

A student's cumulative attendance percentage is calculated at graduation and if the figure is 95% or better, this requirement is satisfied. If the figure is below 95% at the time of graduation, the A+ attendance policy provides for relief in cases where the absence was beyond the control of the A+ participant. Request for attendance waivers must be filed in accordance with the established policy guidelines.

- How is a violation of the alcohol/drug policy determined?

Any violation (possession, use, manufacture, sale, transportation) that results in a discipline assignment (ISS or OSS) will result in the immediate removal of the student from the program. This policy is also in effect at all school sponsored events. In the community, a plea of guilty or no contest or a finding of guilt in a drug-related case will result in the removal of the participant from the program.

- When is the FAFSA due?

The FAFSA is available starting October 1. The STATE DEADLINE to submit the FAFSA is February 1 of senior year. It is best to complete the form and submit it as early as possible. You need W-2 forms because of the income information that is reported on FAFSA. In the fall of the students senior year the guidance department will hold an informational parent/student meeting, providing more detailed information.

- Suppose a student completes an A+ agreement. What's the reward?

You may use your A+ grant benefits at any Missouri public community college or technical or vocational school. The benefits will help with the cost of six semesters of fees (fall, spring, summer, fall, spring, summer) or the completion of a degree program, whichever comes first.

The benefits are available to a qualified student for up to four years after his/her high school graduation. You may work for a while and then attend community college or a vocational/technical school. Or you may attend another college or university and then return to a community college or vocational school on a full time basis and use your grant benefits as long as you transfer with a 2.5 GPA.

Several four-year colleges and universities offer their own incentives to entering freshmen that graduate with A+ status. When visiting the financial aid office of a 4-year university, a student is encouraged to ask about incentives available to students who have received A+ certification.

- 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 student eligibility requirements. Many students will develop plans to attend a four-year college or university following high school. The A+ Schools Scholarship incentive MAY NOT be applied to cost associated with a four-year college or university. Students eligible for A+ tuition benefits may choose to attend a community college for two years;

) earn an associate's degree, or simply earn basic credit hours; then transfer those credits to a four-year college/university.

If for whatever reason an A+ eligible student should withdraw from the four-year institution with at least a 2.5 GPA he/she could enroll at a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school and be eligible for A+ tuition benefits.

- What if an A+ participant decides not to attend a community college or vocational or technical school?

Participation in the A+ program in no way restricts a student's post high school career or educational opportunities. It is simply a funding resource for post-secondary education should the student choose to utilize it. A student who participates in the A+ Program is NOT required to attend a community college or vocational or technical school.

- Does enrolling in the A+ Program guarantee that students will receive the tuition benefits?

There are at least three factors that will impact the availability of tuition benefits to a particular student. First, the high school from which the student graduates must meet and maintain all the requirements for A+ Schools designation. Second, state funding must be available. Third, the student must meet all the criteria outlined in the A+ Schools Program and the participation agreement, which the student signed.

- Does a student qualify for A+ tuition benefits if his/her grade point average is 2.47 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation?

No. The A+ Schools Program does not permit rounding up of a GPA percentage.

GRANDVIEW R-2 HIGH SCHOOL
Tutoring Information

General:

Tutoring for 50 hours to younger students is one of the requirements for the A+ Incentive Program. Tutoring will allow for the tutor and recipient to gain confidence and abilities that will aid in future successes.

Attendance:

Tutors will report to the office for attendance verification. Tutors traveling to another attendance center will be expected to sign out each day before going to the cooperating teacher's room. Failure to sign out will be considered a truancy which will result in the consequent discipline.

Expectations:

Behavior. You are expected to behave as the more mature member of the tutoring team. Your behavior is as important as the subject matter is for the person receiving the tutoring. Express confidence in the person's ability and praise their successes.

Promptness. You are expected to be on time for tutoring sessions and to use the time wisely.

Responsibility. You are expected to inform your supervising teacher if you are unable to be present during your assigned time. You are expected to arrange your study needs around the commitment you have made. In other words, don't "bail out" on the younger student in order to study for a test you may have. A+ tutor may only be taken as a class for 2 semesters. If a student wishes to enroll in additional semesters, then approval by the A+ Coordinator is needed.

Obedience. You are expected to observe the rules, regulations and policies of Grandview R-2 School District while performing your tutoring duties.

Compensation:

You are not to receive any money or other compensation for your tutoring. Your compensation, upon completion of all requirements, will be tuition and fees for your continued education.

Transportation:

Tutors desiring to tutor at another attendance center must provide their own transportation. Tutors traveling to another attendance center must have a Student Driving Permit, with a copy of current vehicle insurance, on file at the high school before they are allowed to go to other attendance centers. The tutor is allowed to drive themselves only. **NO PASSENGERS ARE ALLOWED.** The tutor will proceed by the most direct route from the High School to another attendance center. NO stops, i.e. for lunch, are allowed, without proper written consent from the A+ Coordinator or Principal.

Termination of Opportunity:

Any single significant action, or repeated actions, in violation of school district policy or procedures may result in termination of the opportunity to tutor.

I have reviewed, understand, and will abide by the above terms.

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent Signature:

Date:

ALL LOG SHEETS MUST BE
PRE-APPROVED. *Hours will*

not count if not pre-approved.

Student MOSIS # _____
(office use only)

GRANDVIEW R-II HIGH SCHOOL A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____
Street Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____
Anticipated Graduation Year 20 _____ *Social Security Number _____

**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 purpose of determining my eligibility to receive A+ funding and to make payments to the community college or career-technical school I attend. I further understand that failure to disclose my Social Security number may result in delays in the receipt of A+ funding.*

Name & City/State of other high schools attended: _____

Grandview High School students who graduate with A+ status may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition and general fees while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis. The A+ program may provide these educational incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature. This funding may be for the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and general fees, subject to legislative appropriation.

Eligible A+ students must meet ALL of the requirements below:

1. Attend a designated A+ high school for at least three (3) consecutive years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to high school graduation.
2. Graduate from a designated A+ high school with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Graduate with a cumulative 95% ADA (Average Daily Attendance) record.
4. Perform and document fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring connected to the Grandview R-II School District, coordinated through the Counselors Office, and supervised by a District employee.
5. Meet the Math EOC testing requirement. Beginning with the senior class of 2015, students must achieve a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I EOC. If a student cannot meet the EOC requirement, students may establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the Compass exam or the Math component of the ACT test. The MDHE will announce the qualifying Compass and ACT scores annually.
5. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol (citizenship guidelines detailed on the back of this agreement).
6. Apply for non-payback scholarships by completing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during the student's senior year. **
7. Register for selective service, if applicable. **

*** I understand that failure to complete the FAFSA and, if required, the U.S. Military Selective Service registration, will jeopardize the receipt of A+ financial incentives.*

Once A+ funding has been activated, the student must meet the following criteria to maintain A+ eligibility:

1. Attend a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school as a full-time, degree-seeking student.
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

By signing this agreement, the student and parent/guardian are indicating they have been informed by the Grandview R-II School District of the criteria for student participation in the A+ Schools Student Financial Incentive Program, and further understand and agree to the **A+ Citizenship Guidelines** listed on the reverse side of this agreement. 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.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

The A+ Program provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates who plan to attend a participating public Community College.

A+ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

95% Attendance Rate GPA 2.5 or above Good Citizenship
50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring services
Math Component (score Proficient or Advanced on Algebra I-EOC)
complete FAFSA in January of Senior year
18 year old males – register with selective service

ATTENDANCE – Students must have a *cumulative attendance rate of 95% when they graduate*. The 95% attendance rate is based on attendance from freshman through senior year. If a senior falls short of the 95% attendance rate towards the end of their senior year, a waiver can be submitted to the A+ Committee for consideration of approval.

GPA 2.5 or Above – Students must have at least a 2.5 g.p.a. at the end of their senior year, when they graduate in order to receive A+ funding. The student will automatically be disqualified from the A+ program if he/she falls short of the 2.5 g.p.a. requirement.

CITIZENSHIP – A+ Students who are convicted of a felony will not qualify. Students shall not possess/use alcoholic beverages or controlled substances. Any violation (possession, use, manufacture, sale, or transportation) that results in suspension (ISS/OSS) will result in loss of eligibility from A+. Students will lose A+ eligibility if they accumulate five (5) days of suspension (ISS/OSS) during high school for offenses other than alcohol, drugs, or violations of the Safe Schools Act. Should a student accumulate 5 days or more of ISS/OSS & wants to remain in the A+ program, the student must file a Citizenship Appeal Waiver. The Citizenship Appeal Waiver must be submitted to the A+ Committee by April 15 of their senior year.

50 HOURS of unpaid tutoring/mentoring services ~ A+ students **MUST** work with *other students* to gain hours. Students can get hours on their own time by mentoring Scout troops, coaching basketball camps, or working during summer school. Students can also get hours by using a study hall time during school. The A+ Co-ordinator *must* co-ordinate the time if a student uses a study hall time. **ALL mentoring hours MUST be pre-approved by the A+ Co-ordinator on a log sheet.**

MATH COMPONENT – Students must score Advanced or Proficient on the Algebra I EOC. If a student cannot meet the math requirement, an alternative ACT math/gpa must be met.

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All graduating A+ students **MUST** file the FAFSA by 4/1 of their senior year. The student **MUST** notify the A+ Co-Ordinator of the DATE it was filed. The FAFSA submission date it reported to the State in order for student to get funding.

SELECTIVE SERVICE – All males who turn 18 must register with Selective Service in order to receive A+ funding. Students can register on-line by going to www.sss.gov.