

A+ SCHOOLS AGREEMENT
Rules for the A+ Scholarship Program are subject to change under the rule making
authority of The Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE).

A+ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS - A+ qualifying graduates earn scholarships, which may be used to attend participating public community colleges, vocational/technical schools, or certain private 2-year vocational/technical schools. A+ graduates may qualify for competitively awarded, privately funded incentive scholarships from 4-year institutions. Saint Paul Lutheran High School graduates who meet all state-mandated A+ participation requirements may be eligible for these financial incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature.

TUTORING PARTICIPATION - In order to accumulate hours to meet tutoring/mentoring requirements for the A+ program, students must receive administrator approval as outlined in our mentoring document.

HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for A+ eligibility upon graduation from high school, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Sign an A+ Schools Agreement (this document) prior to high school graduation.
- Attend an A+ designated high school for the last 2 consecutive years immediately prior to graduation. *If a parent is a member of the military on active duty or has retired from the military and relocated to Missouri within one year of his or her retirement, the student is exempt from this requirement. However, the student must attend an A+ designated high school and meet all of the other high school eligibility requirements in the school year immediately preceding graduation.*
- Graduate with a cumulative, un-weighted grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. (Unrounded and no appeal)
- Have at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades nine through twelve (9-12). (Unrounded)
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid school-based tutoring, supervised by a designated SPLHS employee or volunteer and approved and coordinated through Saint Paul Lutheran High School.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful possession or use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). (This may result in a zero award if a Pell Grant is sufficient to cover all tuition and general fee charges. This verification is completed by the State of Missouri – not by SPLHS.)
- Have achieved a score of 17 on the Math subsection of an official ACT exam or the indicated minimum test score as established by the student's high school GPA.

Postgraduate Eligibility

Eligibility expires when the earliest of the following occurs:

- 48 months after completion of high school coursework *(Students providing service to any branch of the U.S. armed forces may defer their eligibility beyond the 48 months if they return to full-time status within 12 months of the end of their military service. Information on deferment may be found at <http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>).*
- Receipt of an Associate's degree.
- Completion of 105% of the hours required for the program of study.

For a complete list of POST GRADUATE eligibility rules and regulations, go to <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>

By signing below, the student indicates they have been informed by Saint Paul Lutheran High School of the criteria for student participation in the A+ Schools Program and certify that the above requirements have been read, understood, and are agreed to. 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 Missouri Department of Higher Education.

_____ and Saint Paul Lutheran High School enter into this written A+ Program agreement.
(Student Name – print)

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent Name)

(Expected Graduation Year) (List previous schools, outside of Saint Paul, 9 – 12 ONLY, and years attended if you are a transfer student.)

The student financial incentive program is dependent upon Saint Paul Lutheran High School maintaining A+ designation and the Missouri Department of Higher Education receiving the state appropriation from the Missouri General Assembly.

A+ CITIZENSHIP QUALIFICATIONS - Good Citizenship Standards mean that the student's behavior is in compliance with the Saint Paul Lutheran High Student Handbook, the A+ Schools Guidelines and federal, state and local statutes and regulations. Participants are expected to exhibit standards of behavior that reflect well on our Lord, the student, the Program, the School, and the community. Citizenship is determined 24/7/365. Other disqualifications under the citizenship requirements include any Safe Schools Act violation or any felony conviction.

As mandated by State Regulations, 6 CSR 10-2.190, a student will forfeit the opportunity to earn the A+ schools financial incentive for any drug or alcohol violation committed at any time prior to submission of final transcripts.

Any Severe Disciplinary Infractions may result in a student being considered "out of compliance" with the Program's Citizenship Standards. "Out of compliance" means that the student has demonstrated either a single severe disciplinary infraction or a pattern of inappropriate behavior.

A+ ATTENDANCE DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS - An A+ participant is expected to attend school regularly and must graduate with a cumulative (Grades 9-12) attendance rate of 95% or higher. The A+ Program makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Many excused absences, including those which a parent or school official is aware of in advance, count against the student's attendance average. A doctor's note for an excused absence for colds, flu, strep, or other short-term illnesses does not qualify a student to have that absence waived. If you believe that a severe extenuating circumstance should be independently evaluated, submit your request in writing to the principal in the last semester of high school. This appeal will be done in the final month before a student's date of graduation.

School-sponsored absences do not count against the student's attendance average in meeting the 95% A+ requirement.

In reviewing a student's final attendance average, the entire attendance history (grades 9-12) is considered and is based on Monday through Friday attendance when school is in regular session. Summer school attendance is not included.

An A+ participant must have a cumulative attendance rate of 95% at the time of graduation. A student with 94.999% or lower will not qualify for eligibility since the attendance average is not rounded up. The student's final transcript will be the official record of attendance.

REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESS

During a student's senior year, the file for each potential qualifier will be reviewed for program standards compliance and completion. A determination will be made by the principal regarding whether the student has satisfied the program requirements.

A senior who is notified that he or she is "out of compliance" with the school's or the state's program standards may request a review of his or her program status by preparing an appeal with verifiable and appropriate documentation. An appeal for citizenship must be received within 10 days of being notified of being out of compliance. An appeal for attendance will be conducted as noted above. *No appeals are allowed for grade point average.*

The A+ Appeal Committee will review all pertinent information and make a decision about the student's status in the program. Once a final decision is made by the appeal committee, notice of the decision will be communicated from the A+ coordinator to the parent/guardian and student within 5 school days following the date of the appeal conference.



This A+ Schools Agreement does not become active without the signature of the Saint Paul Lutheran High School Administrator.	
_____	_____
Administrator	Date



*** A blank copy of this agreement is available by request from the office. ***
**** A signed photo-copy of this agreement is available upon request. ****

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