Willard A+ Schools Agreement

A student at Willard High School who upon graduation has met the six criteria listed below and chooses to continue his/her education at a participating Missouri public community college, vocational or technical school, may have the opportunity to receive state reimbursement for the costs of tuition and general fees subject to legislative appropriation. *Financial reimbursements for the A+ program are defined yearly based on state funding approval.* If a student remains eligible A+ funds may be available for up to two years, six semesters or the completion of a two year program degree.

Each student should enter into a written agreement with the school and, to be eligible, must have:

1. Attended an A+ designated high school for a minimum of two years prior to graduation
2. Graduated from high school with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
3. Maintained a 95% or higher average attendance record during the four years of high school
4. Performed 50 hours of unpaid school-based tutoring or mentoring for other students
5. Maintained a record of good citizenship and avoided the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol (the complete citizenship policy is on the back of this page and is also available from the A+ Office)
6. Perform all other duties and obligations required by state law to be eligible for and receive the benefits of the A+ program
7. Make a good faith effort to secure federal financial aid by completing the FAFSA.
8. A+ qualifiers must achieve a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I End of Course exam (this score can be earned as a high school student or postsecondary student, but A+ funds will not be available until after ALL requirements are met). If students meet all eligibility EXCEPT the EOC requirement, you may establish eligibility by achieving a combined ACT math subscore and GPA as follows: (17 or higher AND 2.5 GPA, 16 and 2.8 GPA, 15 and 3.0 GPA).

The A+ scholarship is a statewide program run by the MO Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development. Requirements are subject to change. For the latest requirements or updates, go to:
https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php

The student financial incentive will be available for a period of four years after high school graduation. *To maintain eligibility while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis and maintain eligibility.*

I have been informed of the conditions for eligibility and understand the requirements to be eligible for the A+ Schools Financial Incentives as outlined in the A+ Schools Program. I also understand that reimbursement is contingent upon available state funding and is not the responsibility of the Willard R-II School District.

☐ Enroll my son/daughter in the A+ schools program

☐ I do not want my student to participate in the A+ schools program and understand that following graduation they will not be eligible for state A+ funds to attend a participating college.

Name_____ **Year of Graduation**_____
Last *First* *Middle*

Address_____
Street *City* *State* *Zip*

Home Phone_____ **Email** _____ **Date of Birth**_____

_____ _____ _____
Student Signature *Parent/Guardian Signature* *Date*

A+ Good Citizenship Policy

This requirement states that the A+ student must maintain a record of good citizenship throughout high school. Good citizenship is a measure of the quality of conduct in school and away from school. A+ participants are expected to exhibit standards of behavior which will bring credit to the student, the A+ program, the school, and the community.

The School Board insists that student behavior be in compliance with School Board policy, with the Student Handbook Regulations, and with public laws. While it is not possible to cite every example of behaviors that violate policies, regulations, or public laws, there are certain behaviors that are more frequently a problem.

Student discipline records will be maintained throughout their four years of high school. Any citizenship/discipline violation committed by an A+ student will be subject to review by the Willard administrative and A+ office and may result in the student being placed on probation or removed from the A+ program.

The following types of incidents or behaviors will be subject to review and possible cause for students to be placed on probation for a period of time not less than one semester.

1. Repeated referrals - Referrals to the office should be minimal. Three referrals during one school year are excessive.
2. Referrals that result in an in-school suspension, or Saturday school - Repeated offenses that result in the accumulation of three in-school suspensions or four Thursday or Saturday schools per year will result in review for possible removal from the A+ program by the A+ citizenship committee.
3. Any out-of-school suspension is cause for review of the student's continued eligibility in the A+ program. If the decision to place the student on probation is made, immediate removal will be the result of a second out of school suspension. That decision may be appealed to the Board of Education.

In compliance with the regulations of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education A+ Schools Program, the Willard R-II district has determined that a student will be removed immediately from the A+ Schools financial assistance program for the following. **Removal from the program will render the student ineligible to receive tuition reimbursement through the A+ Schools Program.**

1. The unlawful use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol and/or drugs
2. Violation of the School district drug/alcohol/controlled substance abuse policy as outlined in the school handbook
3. Violation of local, state or federal criminal laws
4. Conviction of a felony - either prior to or during the contract period
5. Conviction of criminal activity as defined by the Safe Schools Act

The review/action procedure is as follows:
The Willard administrative and A+ office will review the student's files and records and make a determination and recommendation as to the student's A+ status. One of the following procedures will occur:

1. A statement will be issued to the student and his/her parent/guardian that either a warning statement has been given the student or he/she has been placed on probation for the immediate semester during which time any additional referrals may result in removal.

OR

2. The student and parent/guardian will be notified that the student has been removed from the A+ program and will not be eligible to receive the A+ tuition reimbursement after graduation.

<u>Appeals Option</u>

The student and his/her parents have no more than 14 calendar days after written notification to file an appeal with the Willard A+ office, using the appropriate form. A dated appeals form will be included with the notification. Upon receipt, the A+ Citizenship Committee will meet within 14 calendar days to review the incident and decide to either uphold or revise the decision of the administrative and A+ office. The A+ office will provide the documentation supporting the decision, and the student will provide documentation to support his/her request for a ruling change. Any further appeals must be made in writing to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

(Revised 3/24/2021)