

JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL A+ SCHOOLS AGREEMENT

<http://www.jcschools.us/Page/7133>

Rules for the A+ Scholarship Program are subject to change under the rule making authority of The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development - <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>

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. Jefferson City Public 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.

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) and A+ Schools Citizenship Guidelines (semester of tutoring) prior to high school graduation.
- Attend an A+ designated high school for at least 2 years 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 from an A+ designated high school 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% unrounded attendance record overall for grades nine through twelve (9-12).
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid school-based tutoring, supervised by a district employee and approved and coordinated through the A+ office. In order to participate in the Tutoring program, students must receive A+ Coordinator approval and meet the eligibility requirements.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful 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.)
- Have achieved a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I end of course exam or a higher level DESE approved end-of-course exam or have achieved a qualifying math score (established annually) on a college entrance test determined by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE).

POSTGRADUATE ELIGIBILITY- <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>

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.

A+ CITIZENSHIP QUALIFICATIONS - Good Citizenship Standards mean that the student's behavior is in compliance with Board of Education policies, the JCHS or CCHS disciplinary code, the A+ Schools Guidelines and federal, state and local statutes and regulations. Participants are expected to exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to the student, the Program, the District, and the community. Citizenship is defined as 24/7/365.

As mandated by State Regulations, 6 CSR 10-2.190, a student must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol while in grades nine through twelve (9-12).

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 a pattern of inappropriate behavior, through conduct that results in disciplinary referrals and being referred to Student-Suspended Classroom suspensions, Out-of-School suspensions or a combination thereof. (Please refer to JCPS School Board Policy JFCL)

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. Should a student's final attendance upon graduation be less than 95%, medical circumstances will be considered and an appeal of the student's attendance conducted upon receiving verifiable and appropriate documentation. This appeal will be done in the final month before a student's date of graduation. (Please refer to <http://www.jcschools.us/Page/7135>.)

The following absences do not count against the student's attendance average in meeting the 95% A+ requirement:

- Absences coded as school-sponsored activities.
- Absences coded as JCPS district-provided *Homebound Instruction*.

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. **A SENIOR who chooses to be an Early Graduate**, with an attendance average below 95%, may not have enough days of attendance accumulated to meet the 95% attendance requirement. Leaving early may eliminate a student from A+ eligibility when he/she meets early graduation requirements.

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 A+ Coordinator regarding whether the student has satisfied the program requirements.

A senior who is notified that he or she is "out of compliance" with the district'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.*

An 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.

By signing below, the student indicates they have been informed by the Jefferson City Public Schools 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 JCHS enter into this written A+ Program agreement.
(Student Name - print)

_____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Date)

_____ (Parent Name)

_____ (Expected Graduation Year)

_____ (If you are a transfer student, list previous schools and years attended, 9 - 12 ONLY)

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

This A+ Schools Agreement does not become active without the signature of the Jefferson City High School A+ Coordinator.

Lauren Winemiller
JCHS A+ Coordinator

_____ Date

Revised August 2024

**A signed photo-copy of this agreement is available upon request. **

