NORTH PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL



A+ PROGRAM

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

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INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2008, the North Platte R-I School District began the process to be designated by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as an A+ School. North Platte met the requirements to be A+ designated in the spring of 2011 by taking steps to reduce the dropout rate, raising academic expectations, providing career pathways, and working with business and educational leaders to prepare students for their lives after graduation.

GOALS OF THE NORTH PLATTE A+ PROGRAM

The A+ Program is designed to achieve the three basic objectives that are set forth in the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. The three goals are:

All students will graduate from high school.

All students will complete high school studies that are challenging and that have identified learner expectations.

All students will proceed from high school graduation to a college or post-secondary vocational or technical school or a high wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

All projects and efforts of the A+ Program in the North Platte R-I School District are designed to achieve these three objectives.

BENEFITS OF THE A+ PROGRAM

The A+ program benefits both the school and community by promoting the objectives of outstanding schools. It also directly benefits our graduates by helping to continue their education after high school. Students who graduate from an A+ high school may qualify for a state-paid financial incentive to attend any public community college or career/technical school in Missouri if the students successfully meet the A+ standards. These incentives may be made available by the state of Missouri only after the student has made a good faith effort to secure all federal post-secondary financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. All financial incentives are paid by the state of Missouri and appropriations are pending approval each year by the Missouri General Assembly.

These incentives may be available for four years after the student's date of graduation from North Platte High School. To receive this incentive, a student must be considered a full-time student by the post-secondary institution and maintain a 2.5 GPA to continue receiving the financial assistance. Although the actual A+ financial incentives appropriated by the General Assembly can only by used at a public Missouri community college or vocation/technical school, several 4-year colleges and universities now offer scholarships to their institutions as a means of recruiting A+ certified graduates.

A+ STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Program, a student must be certified by North Platte High School. This certification is done by the A+ coordinator and the high school principal will verify all qualifications and documentation. To be certified as an A+ participant an individual must:

Sign the A+ Program Participation Agreement;
Attend an A+ designated school for three consecutive years prior to graduation;
Graduate high school with an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
Have an attendance rate of 95% or greater for grades 9-12;
Perform 50 hours of unpaid, approved, academic tutoring or mentoring;
Perform fifteen hours of volunteer service that benefits the school/community.
Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol;
Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment; and
Register with Selective Service, if required to do so.
Beginning with the class of 2015, score proficient or above on the Algebra I EOC exam or meet the Missouri Division of Higher Education requirement in the math sub-score on the ACT and GPA.
To maintain ongoing eligibility after high school, a student must:

Attend a public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis;
Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; and
Make a good faith effort to secure Federal Aid by completing the FAFSA each year.

A+ PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Each student desiring to enter the A+ Program must first complete a Participation Agreement. This form may be picked up at the North Platte High School office. This form does not obligate a student to the A+ Program. It simply states that the student and parents are aware of the A+ Program requirements and incentives.

TWO YEARS OF ATTENDANCE AT AN A+ SCHOOL

Students must attend an A+ designated school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation. A student transferring in to North Platte after the start of their sophomore year will only be eligible for A+ if their previous school had A+ designation. Students who transfer out of North Platte will only be eligible for the A+ Program at their new school if that school has A+ designation.

REQUIRED GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THE A+ PROGRAM

To meet the A+ requirement, students must graduate high school with a cumulative non-weighted GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. This GPA is for all four years of high school, cannot be weighted, and cannot be rounded up. Please note that this GPA may be different than the one used to determine class rank.

MEETING THE A+ PROGRAM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

A+ students are required to have a 95% attendance rate at the time of graduation. Any student who does not meet the 95% attendance requirement will not be eligible for the A+ financial incentive. As with the GPA requirement, the attendance percentage can not be rounded up. The following guidelines for attendance are in effect for all students participating in the A+ Schools Program:

1. An accumulative attendance record will be kept from the beginning of each student's freshman year through graduation. This will be gathered from the school computerized information system and will be used to compute each student's attendance rate. Students who attend the career center will have their attendance sent to North Platte High School.

2. Each semester A+ students and their parents/guardians will be provided information about the student's status in regards to A+ attendance requirements.

3. A waiver may be obtained for certain absences. This form must be completed and returned no later than the end of the semester in which the absence(s) occurred. This could include absences due to long-term hospitalization or illnesses, granted homebound instruction, and treatment for chronic health problems. Waivers will not be approved for ordinary colds or short-term illnesses, truancy, family vacations, transportation problems (except when on school-provided transportation), doctor/dentist visits, court dates, and funerals.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain waivers from the high school office. No waivers will be considered after graduation. The A+ Advisory Committee will meet within 30 days after the waiver is turned in to the office. The student and parent will have the opportunity to present information at this meeting. Upon receiving written notice of the committee's decision the parent/student may file an appeal with the superintendent of schools within twenty calendar days of the postmark date of the notification letter. Appeals after twenty days will not be considered. Upon receiving the superintendent's decision, the parent/student may appeal within five calendar days with the district's Board of Education. The appeal process ends with the local district. There is no appeal process available on the state level.

TUTORING/MENTORING

The A+ Program requires participants to perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring with students. The following guidelines have been established for A+ tutoring:

1. The A+ Coordinator must approve tutoring.
2. Tutoring must be done on school property under the supervision of school personnel.
3. Tutoring activities may occur before, during, or after the school day.
4. Tutoring may be done during the school year or during summer school. The student is expected to be present at the agreed upon day and time for tutoring. If an absence must occur, the A+ student is expected to notify the adult in charge of the A+ tutoring experience. Failure of notification may result in removal from the tutoring program.
5. A tutoring log form must be kept by the student and signed by the school staff member supervising the activity.
6. It is the responsibility of the A+ student to make sure that all completed tutoring log forms are turned in to the A+ Coordinator or A+ secretary each quarter.
7. Only activities that have been verified with a time sheet signature by the tutoring supervisor, and filed in the A+ office, will be counted toward the 50-hour requirement.

8. No tutoring hours will be accepted after May 1 of a student's graduating year.
9. Students may not receive compensation for A+ tutoring hours.
10. A+ tutors are not teacher's aides. Only time spent tutoring/mentoring students may be counted towards the required 50 hours.
11. Students are expected to behave properly and follow the directions of the classroom teacher.
12. Students who fail to follow the outlined rules may be removed from the tutoring program and will therefore become ineligible for A+ financial incentives.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The A+ Committee has placed an additional requirement of fifteen volunteer hours on each student participating in the North Platte A+ Program. Students are required to perform fifteen hours of volunteer service that benefits either the North Platte School District or area communities. Students must get volunteer activities pre-approved by the A+ Coordinator and have the activity supervisor fill out a Volunteer Service Report Form, which is available in the A+ Office. Volunteer hours must be performed for a non-profit community organization, nursing home, or hospital.

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

Participation in the A+ schools financial assistance program is an honor and a privilege. The A+ Schools Program encourages students to maintain a "record of good citizenship" at school and away from school and develop behaviors that will help them become productive, successful citizens. It is expected that students will exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to them, the A+ Schools Program, North Platte High School, and the community.

The primary goal of education is the development of individuals who possess the knowledge, skills, and characteristics to empower them to live meaningful lives and to make positive contributions to society.

To qualify for the A+ financial incentive, a student's behavior shall be in compliance with Board of Education policies, the high school guidelines on student discipline as outlined in the student handbook, the A+ School guidelines, the Safe Schools Act, and state and local regulations and laws.

Citizenship Eligibility

At the end of each semester student discipline records will be reviewed. Student discipline records will be maintained throughout their four years of high school. Activities within the school setting are an important part of determining good citizenship. Therefore,

-Any student exhibiting an ongoing pattern of disruptive/inappropriate behavior as recorded in his/her discipline record will be placed on probation, and

-Any student placed in out-of-school suspension will be placed on probation for the first offense. A second offense will immediately remove the student from the A+ Program

Good citizenship outside the school setting is of equal importance. Records from the Office of Juvenile Services or law enforcement are available to North Platte High School as established under the Safe Schools Act. This information will also be used in determining citizenship and probation, as will be administered as follows:

-Any student convicted or pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge will be placed on probation. A second offense will result in immediate removal from the A+ Program.

-Any student convicted or pleading guilty to a felony will be removed from the program.

Probation – A letter will be issued to the student placing that student on probation, and a copy of the letter will be sent by mail to the parent/guardian as well as a call to the parent/guardian. Probation will last for one calendar year. Further incidents while the student is on probation will result in removal from the A+ Program.

Removal From The Program – The student and the parent/guardian will be notified via certified mail that the student has been removed from the A+ Program and will not be eligible to receive A+ incentive funds.

Appeals – Appeal forms will be mailed with the notification of ineligibility. They also may be picked up at the A+ office. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the A+ Appeal Committee in care of the A+ Coordinator within 30 days of the notification of ineligibility. Upon receiving written notice of the committee's decision the parent/student may file an appeal with the superintendent of schools within twenty calendar days of the postmark date of the notification letter. Appeals after twenty days will not be considered. Upon receiving the superintendent's decision, the parent/student may appeal within five calendar days with the district's Board of Education. The appeal process ends with the local district. There is no appeal process available on the state level.

Automatic Ineligibility

A student will be removed immediately from the A+ Schools financial assistance program and thus forfeit the opportunity to receive funds through this program for any of the following:

Drugs/Alcohol/Substance Abuse

- Violation of the district's Drug/Alcohol/Substance Abuse policy outlined in the Board Policy during the contract time.
- Formally charged with unlawful possession and/or selling of drugs, paraphernalia or alcohol.

Violation of Local, State or Federal Criminal Laws

- Conviction/or guilty plea to a felony.
- Criminal activity which is formally reported to the schools by the juvenile officer as defined by the Safe Schools Act. Convictions include:

* first and second degree murder	* first degree arson
* kidnapping	* voluntary/involuntary manslaughter
* first and second degree assault	* sexual assault
* forcible rape or sodomy	* felonious restraint
* first degree burglary	* property damage, first degree
* robbery	* possession of a weapon (provisions Chapter 571 Missouri revised statutes)
* distribution of drugs	
*distribution of drugs to a minor	*Physical threat/intimidation to staff
*False fire alarms/bomb threats	*Misuse of emergency equipment

The student will lose eligibility for the A+ Program if any of the above occur, whether on or off school premises.

FAFSA REQUIREMENT

A+ Participants are required to make a good faith effort to secure all available Federal post-secondary student financial funds that do not require repayment, i.e. Pell Grants. The following steps must be taken to show this good faith effort:

Parents must complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA summary report must be sent to the Missouri community college or public vocational/technical school that the student is planning to attend.

The FAFSA forms are available in the counselor's office in December of each year. Parents are encouraged to apply as early as possible, but may not apply before January 1 or after June 30 of the year of the student's graduation. Parents may also apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you apply online, you must also apply for the PIN number so you can sign the application online.

A+ financial incentives will only be awarded after available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds have been applied.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Effective August 28, 1999, all individuals required to register under the United States Military Selective Service Act (all males age 18) must show proof of registration to be eligible for state-supported scholarship, programs for financial assistance for post-secondary education or loans insured by any state agency. This student eligibility requirement is authorized pursuant to MO. Rev. Statute 105.1210, 105.1213 and 105.1216 (2000).

POST-SECONDARY STUDENT INCENTIVES

Qualified A+ graduates will be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement to attend any Missouri public community college or vocational/technical college for two years. Funding for these tuition incentives is entirely dependent on appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

FAFSA forms must be on file with the college by deadlines set by the college. To meet those deadlines, parents should have FAFSA forms mailed by April 15. FAFSA forms must be filed each year to receive A+ financial incentives.

A+ tuition incentives will only be made available to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition after available federal financial aid funds have been applied to those costs.
Private scholarship will not affect eligibility for A+, nor will they reduce the state's responsibility to a college or technical school.

Students must successfully complete 12 college credit hours per semester (6 hours during the summer) and maintain a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale while enrolled in post-secondary training to be eligible to receive A+ funds for two years (including the summer for a total of 6 semesters). Graduates have four years of A+ eligibility to complete their two year s of studies at a community college or public vocational/technical school.

Students must adhere to each college's deadlines. Failure to do so may result in A+ incentives not being available for a student.
Financial need is not a factor in determining A+ eligibility.

The A+ Schools Program is a state funded program and will be available as long as state funds are allocated for the program. The tuition reimbursement is <u>not</u> the responsibility of the North Platte School District.

North Platte R-I School District
A+ Participation Agreement

If state funds are available, A+ certified graduates may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition, subject to legislative appropriation, while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis for two years. This will be for the unpaid balance after federal post-secondary financial assistance funds (that do not require payment) have been applied for.* The student must also meet ALL of the requirements below:

- Attend a designated A+ School for three (3) consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
- Graduate from high school with a grade point average of 2.50 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate from high school with at least 95% attendance record.
- Perform and document 50 hours of unpaid tutoring for younger students.
- Perform and document 15 hours of volunteer service in the community.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.
- Produce evidence of submission of a Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) form (second semester of senior year).
- Class of 2015 and beyond: Must score proficient or advanced on the state level Algebra I End of Course Exam.
- Have registered for Selective Service (male U.S. citizen over age 18).

The A+ Schools Program's student financial incentive will be available for up to two (2) years of attendance during the four-year period after graduation from high school. To maintain eligibility, participants must:

1. Attend a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school, and
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

*The Student Financial Incentive program is dependent upon state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Email _____ Home Phone _____
Date of Birth _____/_____/_____ Age _____
Current Grade Level _____ Anticipated Graduation Year _____
High Schools Attended/Attending: _____

____ I understand the terms listed above and will follow the guidelines set forth by the State of Missouri and the North Platte R-I School District to be an A+ eligible student and to have the option of using the tuition incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature.

____ I understand the terms listed above and at this time choose not to participate in the A+ Schools Program.

The student and parent/guardian must sign this A+ Schools Program Application before the student will be considered for participation in the A+ Schools Program.

_____ _____

Student Signature Date Parent Signature Date

_____

A+ Coordinator Signature Date

North Platte R-I School District
A+ Program
Tutoring Activity Report

Tutor's Name: _____ Graduation Year:_____

Date	Activity & Location	Time In	Time Out	Total Hours *	Supervisors' Signature

*round time to nearest quarter hour

Total Hours: _____

North Platte R-I School District
A+ Program
Tutoring Contract

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Telephone #: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Mailing Address: _____Parent/Guardian: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Date: _____

As a student enrolled in the A+ School Tutoring Program, I accept the responsibility to:

- Complete a Tutoring Orientation before I am assigned my first task.
- Obtain the proper approval for tutoring activities.
- Spend 50 hours as a volunteer tutor at a school-approved site.
- Maintain a record of tutoring hours.
- Notify the supervising teacher if unable to fulfill an assigned task.
- Wear clothing appropriate to the activity.
- Work with a positive attitude and willingly assume assigned tasks.
- Treat the student and site supervisor with respect.
- Be sensitive to the needs of the student to which I am assigned.
- Respect the principle of confidentiality.
- Report any concerns to the supervising teacher.
- Respect the instructional techniques of the supervising teacher.

I agree to accept the opportunities and obligations of the A+ Schools Tutoring Program. I understand that I may be dismissed from the program for failure to comply with the guidelines of the program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
I agree to my child's participation in the A+ School Tutoring Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

NORTH PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL
A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE WAIVER REQUEST

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

This request is for consideration of an attendance waiver for my son/daughter for the following semester:

_____Fall _____ Spring School Year: _____

In the space below, please indicate the basis of your appeal concerning the attendance requirement for the A+ Schools Program. If additional space is needed, please attach another sheet of paper.

_____

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Appeals must be submitted in writing to the A+ Appeals Committee in care of the A+ Coordinator by the end of the semester in which the absences occur. The student and parent will be given the opportunity

to appear before the committee. Upon receiving written notice of the committee's decision the parent/student may file an appeal with the superintendent of schools within twenty calendar days of the postmark date of the notification letter. Appeals after twenty days will not be considered. Upon receiving the superintendent's decision, the parent/student may appeal within five calendar days with the district Board of Education. There is no appeal available on the state level.

_____ _____

Parent signature Date

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

Date Received: _____

Date Reviewed: _____

Appeal: _____Approved _____Denied

A+ Coordinator Signature_____

Student/Parent Notification Date: _____

NORTH PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL
A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM
CITIZENSHIP VIOLATION APPEAL

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

This request is to appeal the citizenship certification violation of my son/daughter for the following semester:

_____Fall _____ Spring School Year: _____

In the space below, please indicate the basis of your appeal concerning the Good Citizenship Certification for the A+ Schools Program. If additional space is needed, please attach another sheet of paper.

_____

_____

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Appeals must be submitted in writing to the A+ Appeals Committee in care of the A+ Coordinator within 30 days of notification of the citizenship violation. The student and parent will be given the opportunity to appear before the committee. Upon receiving written notice of the committee's decision the parent/student may file an appeal with the superintendent of schools within twenty calendar days of the postmark date of the notification letter. Appeals after twenty days will not be considered. Upon receiving the superintendent's decision, the parent/student may appeal within five calendar days with the district Board of Education. There is no appeal available on the state level.

_____ _____

Parent signature Date

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

Date Received: _____

Date Reviewed: _____

Appeal: _____Approved _____Denied

A+ Coordinator Signature_____

Student/Parent Notification Date: _____