

Pattonsburg R-II
A+ Program Handbook
2025-2026



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A+ Scholarship Program

The A+ Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship that provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend participating public community colleges or vocational/technical schools, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.

Legislation passed in 2016 expanded the A+ Program to non-public high schools. To participate in A+, non-public high schools must complete and submit a Notification of Assurances for A+ High Schools to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and be designated by the State Board of Education.

Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance you must meet the following requirements:

High School Students

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend a designated A+ high school for 2 years prior to graduation.
- 2020 High School Seniors and Forward who attended an A+ designated high school for any 2 years of the 4 years prior to high school graduation have met this requirement.
- In addition, regardless of graduation year, if one of the parents is a member of the military on active duty or has retired from the military and relocated to Missouri within one year of their retirement, the student is exempt from this requirement. However, they must attend an A+ designated high school in the school year immediately preceding graduation and meet all of the other high school eligibility requirements.
- Graduate from an A+ designated high school with an overall unweighted grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9-12.
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to 25% may include job shadowing prior to graduation.
- High school policy may allow this criterion to be met up to 6 months beyond high school graduation in exceptional circumstances.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol while in grades 9-12.
- 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 in the field of mathematics.
- 2018 High School Seniors and Forward - If a student meets all of the eligibility requirements for their high school graduating class except the end of course exam requirement, they may establish eligibility by achieving a combined Pre-ACT or ACT math subscore and high school GPA in accordance with the following scale.

Pre-ACT or ACT Math Score	And	High School GPA
17 or greater	And	2.5 or greater

16	And	2.8 or greater
15	And	3.0 or greater

- A student may achieve the qualifying score as a high school or postsecondary student. If the student achieves the score as a postsecondary student, they may be eligible for an award in the same term that they take the test provided that they established eligibility before the institution's reimbursement request is submitted.

Pattonsburg R-2 A+ Program

Competencies/Objectives:

Students will fill out monthly tutoring logs, and turn those in to the A+ Program Coordinator.

- Logs must be:
 - Filled out completely
 - Signed by the A+ Student
 - Signed by the A+ Mentor
 - Signed by the A+ Program Coordinator
 - Turned in by the 5th school day of the following month
- Students will apply effective tutoring skills with individual students and/or with small groups of students.

Credits:

Students receive ½ credit for one semester of tutoring.

Tutoring Placement:

Every effort will be made to place students in an area related to their desired preference. Student placement may be changed with the approval of the A+ Coordinator, Building Principal, and Academic Counselor.

School Rules:

All school discipline and attendance policies apply to students involved in this program, even when at another school building.

Grading:

This is a performance based class. Excellent attendance is a must. The teachers and students with whom A+ participants work depend on the tutor to be in attendance every day possible and to report promptly at the assigned time.

- Signed Time Logs are due to the A+ Coordinator by the 5th school day of each month.
- There will be an evaluation of student performance completed by the supervising teacher.

Attendance:

The student is required to be in the building/classroom at the assigned time, and may only leave the classroom with the permission of the supervising teacher. If a student is unable to report during the assigned time, it is HIS/HER responsibility to notify the supervising teacher.

Time Log:

Students are responsible for logging tutoring minutes. The A+ Coordinator will provide copies of the tutoring log to each A+ student at the beginning of the month. At the end of each month, the student will turn in their tutoring log, with the total minutes of tutoring time calculated and signed by the student and the supervising teacher, to the A+ Coordinator. The A+ Coordinator is required to verify time for tutoring to be added to the student's permanent transcript.

Confidentiality:

At NO time should a student discuss the progress of a student they are tutoring with anyone other than the supervising teacher. Do not discuss a student's grades or work even with the parent/guardian of the student. That information should always come from the teacher.

Safe Schools Act:

A student should report any information relating to the safety of students to the supervising teacher immediately. Take anything a student says seriously. However, the classroom teacher and building principal will determine if further action is necessary.

Tutoring Activities:**Appropriate Tutoring Activities**

- Demonstrating methods/ideas
- Assisting in cooperative learning activities
- Assisting individual students with math, reading, writing, etc.
- Offering encouragement to individual students
- Reviewing material for tests
- Playing educational games

Inappropriate activities

- Making photocopies
- Running errands
- Stapling papers
- Grading papers
- Recording grades
- Handling class discipline
- Being left alone in the classroom with students

*These lists are not all inclusive, but give a few examples.

**Pattonsburg R-II High School A+ Program
Tutoring and Attendance Monthly Log Sheet
A+ Tutoring Hour**

A+ Tutor Name: _____ **Hour:** _____

Month and Year: _____ **Supervising Teacher:** _____

[illegible]

Student Signature:_____

Supervising Teacher Signature:_____

A+ Coordinator Signature:_____

To be completed by A+ Coordinator:

Total Minutes:_____ **Total Hours:**_____

Pattonsburg High School

A+ SCHOOLS AGREEMENT (revised January 2023)

A+ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

An A+ qualifying graduate earns scholarships which may be used to attend participating public community colleges, vocational/technical schools, or certain private 2-year vocational/technical schools. A+ eligibility is an achievement that can be listed on resumes and college applications. A+ graduates may qualify for competitively awarded, privately funded first year and transfer scholarships or incentive scholarships from 4-year institutions.

Pattonsburg High School graduates who meet all state-mandated A+ participation requirements may be eligible for these financial incentives 1) provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature annually or 2) subject to state funding approval.

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.
- Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend an A+ designated high school for 3 years immediately prior to graduation. (There are military exemptions.)
- Graduate with an overall GPA (grade point average) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades nine through twelve (9-12).
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which 25% percent (12.5 hours) may include job shadowing. Hours must be completed prior to graduation. Only A+ Office approved tutoring will be included in students' A+ eligibility files.
- 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.) The FAFSA must be completed before students can be awarded A+ scholarship funds.
- Meet one of the following college readiness indicators:
 1. Have achieved a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I end of course exam

Or

 2. ACT Math Score 17+ and 2.5+ GPA
 - ACT Math Score 16 and 2.8+ GPA
 - ACT Math Score 15 and 3.0+ GPA

CITIZENSHIP GUIDELINES

Good citizenship, as established by the program, is a measure of the quality of conduct in school and away from school. Participants of this program are expected to exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to the student, the A+ Schools Program, the school, and the community. Student behavior shall be in compliance with Pattonsburg Board of Education policies, the Administrative Guidelines on Student Discipline, Safe Schools Act policies, the Student Handbook, the A+ Schools Guidelines, and the federal, state, and local regulations and laws.

As mandated by State Law 5 CSR-50-350.040, a student will forfeit the opportunity to earn the A+ schools financial incentive for any drug or alcohol violation committed at any time throughout the four years the student attends high school.

Disciplinary infractions may result in the student being considered out of compliance with the A+ Citizenship Standard. "Out of Compliance: means that the student has shown a pattern of repeated disruptive behavior, either through referrals,

ISS, or OSS assignments. Once a student has been deemed out of compliance, it does not automatically mean that he/she will be eliminated from participating in the A+ Program. The student may regain good citizenship standing if a pattern of *improvement* in behavior is achieved.

Students should be aware that:

- Repeated referrals may lead to more serious consequences and may disqualify the student.
- Repeated assignments to ISS/OSS would be evidence of a breach of Pattonsburg Schools' values of respect, honesty, or responsibility.
- Citizenship violations incurred after graduation, but before the submission of qualifier to the state, may eliminate them from the A+ Program.
- Violation of Safe Schools, federal, state, or local laws will eliminate them from A+ financial incentives.

Students may appeal citizenship decisions with the district A+ Attendance Appeals Committee.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Participants in the A+ Scholarship program are expected to attend school regularly. Students must graduate with a minimum cumulative (grades 9-12) attendance rate of 95%. Rounding up of attendance percentage is NOT permitted. Attendance is based on regular sessions (T-F) of school; no summer school sessions are included.

The A+ Scholarship Program makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. A doctor's note for an excused absence for colds, flu, strep, or other short-term illnesses does not automatically qualify a student to have that absence waived.

Students transferring from an out-of-state high school attended during 9th grade will have only 3 years computed in their final attendance average.

Any student transferring to Pattonsburg High School who is ineligible because of attendance from his/her previous school is also considered ineligible at PHS.

It is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance. Semester updates will be made available to A+ participants in the A+ Status Notification. A senior who chooses to be an Early Leaver/Graduate may or may not have enough days of attendance accumulated to meet the 95% attendance requirement.

The following absences DO NOT count against the student's attendance average for A+ purposes: school-sponsored activities; pre-approved, documented college visits; SPS district-provided Homebound Instruction; and SPS district-approved disability accommodation plans (504 plan). Students may appeal attendance decisions with the district A+ Attendance Appeals Committee.

APPEALS

Any appeals may be done so using a form that can be requested in the office.

CHANGES

Rules and availability for the A+ Scholarship Program are subject to change under the rule-making authority of The Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE). For a complete and updated list of High School and Post Graduate eligibility rules and regulations you can visit <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>.

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

Signatures indicate that the student and parent/guardian(s) have reviewed and understand the Pattonsburg School District A+ Schools Agreement. This informs them of the opportunities afforded by participation and/or eligibility in the program, the expected standards of behavior for the program, and the rules, requirements and regulations of the A+ Program.

Signatures do NOT signify an obligation to participate in the A+ Schools Program or to use the A+ Scholarship funds. Signatures do NOT guarantee qualification for the A+ Scholarship.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this signed form to Mrs. McMillen.