

Eldon High School

A+ Schools Program

Student/Parent
Handbook

Guidelines and Requirements
for the A+ Program

Home of the

MUSTANGS

The logo features the word "MUSTANGS" in a bold, red, serif font. The letters are stylized with dynamic, sweeping red lines that cross through and around them, creating a sense of motion and energy. A thin vertical line is positioned to the right of the word.

The A+ Schools Program was established as part of the Missouri Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 in order to provide incentives for local high schools to raise academic expectations, reduce their drop rate of dropout, establish relationships with the business community, and provide better “career pathways” to students. The legislation requires the Eldon R-1 School District to establish guidelines and polices in order to administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner.

The Eldon R-1 school district voluntarily chooses to participate in the A+ Schools Program as a commitment to provide all students with a rigorous education that prepares them for college, post/secondary career/technical training, and a high wage job. It is the responsibility for Eldon High School to meet and maintain all A+ requirements. The Missouri State Board of Education designates A+ status based on a program review.

Eligible students graduating from an A+ high school may qualify for the students financial incentives of the A+ schools program.*

The purpose of this handbook is to provide students, parents and staff with information about the guidelines and policies of the Eldon R-1 School District’s A+ Schools Program. It is the responsibility of each high school to make sure that designation is maintained. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to read, understand, and comply with the program requirements for eligibility. Please direct any additional questions concerning this program to the A+ Schools Coordinator at Eldon High School. For more information about the Missouri A+ Program, visit: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus/>

***All reimbursements are dependent upon Eldon High School maintaining its status as an A+ School and the availability of state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly. Reimbursement is not the funding responsibility of the Eldon R-1 School District**



A+ Eligibility

Eldon High School Students meeting the following requirements may be eligible for financial reimbursement (providing Eldon High School maintains A+ status and funds are available from the Missouri General Assembly):

Have a signed A+ participant agreement on file at the student's high school.

- Attend an A+ designated high school for three consecutive years prior to graduation
- Graduate with an unweighted, rounded cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain at least a 95% cumulative attendance record in grades 9-12 (an attendance rate of 94.9% will not be rounded up)
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid mentoring and/or tutoring to other students in our district.
25% of hours can come from Job Shadowing (Class of 2015)
- *Must score Proficient or Advanced on Algebra I EOC (Class of 2015)*
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the use of alcohol and unlawful drugs.
- Make a documented good faith effort to apply for non-payback financial aid by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Register for Selective Service if applicable

NOTE: There are two ways in the school that you can earn your 50 tutoring hours:

1. Learn and Serve – students can L&S for a teacher during the day, being a teachers aid/tutor, working with kids on the course work.

DISCLAIMER:

LEARN AND SERVE IS A CLASS WHERE THE GRADE IS PASS/FAIL. THERE IS NO GPA POINTS EARNED WITH THIS CLASS, WHICH CAN AFFECT A STUDENTS CLASS RANK.

2. Edge Tutor – you must apply for and meet the criteria to become an Edge Tutor. Your tutoring time is during our advisory time, so it does not affect your GPA or class rank.

To maintain A+ eligibility at the post-secondary level, students must:

- Attend a Missouri community college or postsecondary career/technical school on a full-time basis and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Make a good faith effort each year to first secure all available federal financial aid (FAFSA)

Enrollment Information

A+ enrollment is voluntary. Students may participate in the program by completing and returning a signed A+ Participant Agreement to the high school A+ office. After all signatures are obtained by the A+ office, the student will be confirmed as an active A+ student. Upon confirmation into the A+ Program it becomes the responsibility of the student to meet all the requirements of the program to become eligible for the tuition reimbursement upon graduation.

Students may sign up for the A+ Schools Program at any time between grades nine and eleven. Seniors must enroll prior to the fourth term of their senior year due to the need to complete 50 hours of required tutoring. Eldon High School offers Learn and Serve or Selective Edge Tutoring in order to fulfill this requirement.

*Transfer students who enroll in Eldon High School will be allowed to participate in Eldon High School's A+ program as long as they have a transferred from another A+ designated school. (A student must have attended an A+ designated school for three consecutive years prior to graduation.)



A+ Financial Incentives

Students who graduate from an A+ designated 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 requirements (see eligibility requirements). In addition, some four year institutions may offer financial incentives for students who meet A+ criteria.

A+ students' are under no obligation to use the A+ financial benefits. The benefits are earned by each individual student and are not transferable to any other student.

Receipts of private scholarships will not affect an A+ participant's eligibility for benefits.

Financial need is not a factor in determining an A+ participant's eligibility for A+ benefit. However, an A+ participants is required to complete a FAFSA (Free Applications for Federal Student Aid) to determine eligibility for non-payback financial aid (i.e. Pell grant, Missouri State Grant, Supplementary Education Opportunity Grant).

Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for details

A student who graduates at the end of the first semester of his or her senior year is eligible to receive A+ funds for the semester immediately following, as long as the student met all the program eligibility requirements.

Educational incentives will be provided as long as state funds are appropriated by the legislature.



A+ Attendance Requirements

A+ participants are expected to attend school regularly. A+ participants must graduate with a minimum cumulative (grades 9-12) attendance rate of 95%. (An attendance rate of 94.9% will not be rounded.)

Attendance is based upon all the days school is in regular session. Only the days and times calculated for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) will be used to determine the 95% attendance requirement. The attendance office will keep the official record for each student.

Parents/guardians and students will be provided with information on the student's attendance at the end of each semester. However, it is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance.

The A+ attendance policy may provide relief in cases where the absences were beyond the control of the A+ participant via an appeals process. * An attendance Appeal Form must be filed in accordance with the established policy guidelines. Each A+ participant should read and understand the attendance policy.

Anytime an A+ student is absent for one of the appealable reasons, the student may bring required documentation to the A+ office to be filed in case an attendance appeal needs to be made. This precaution will ensure that required documentation is already gathered and on file. Attendance appeals will not be granted for the following:

- **Truancy**
- **Suspension**
- **Personal/Family Vacation**
- **Transportation**

*Attendance appeals may be directed to the A+ Schools Appeals Committee when a student believes that he/she has been declared ineligible unfairly. To appeal, the student or parent/guardian must notify the A+ Schools Coordinator in writing his/her intent to appeal within 10 days of receiving an ineligibility letter.

An A+ Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal within 10 days of receiving a written request and return its decision to the student. The A+ Schools Coordinator will be a non-voting member in the appeals process.

The student may appeal the A+ Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent of schools or his/her designee.

A+ Citizenship Requirements

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is both an honor and a privilege. Good citizenship is a measure of the quality of conduct in school and away from school through project graduation. The A+ School's financial assistance eligibility factors are indicators of good citizenship, therefore, A+ participants are expected to exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to them, the A+ Schools Program the school, and the community.

To qualify for A+ financial incentive, a student's behavior shall be in compliance with the Board of Education policies, the guidelines in the student handbook, the A+ Schools guidelines, the Safe Schools Act, and state and local regulations and laws during all four years of a student's high school career.

The following guidelines for good citizenship have been established:

Students must have no incidents of drug, alcohol, or tobacco products use/abuse (results in automatic removal from the A+ Schools Program.)

ISS (In School Suspension) Students who have accumulated a total of 3 days ISS during the school year will be placed on probation for a period of 90 school days from date of the most recent offense.

OSS (Out of School Suspension) Students who receive an OSS will be placed on immediate probation for a period of 90 school days from the date of the offense. When a student is placed on probation, the student and parents will be required to attend an administrative conference within ten school days of the notification in order for the student to remain in the A+ Program.

Repeated Referrals: When a student receives three referrals to the principal's/assistant principal's office for disciplinary action, such as classroom misbehavior, parking lot incidents, or other infractions, the student will be placed on probation for 90 days from the date of the most recent offense.

Additional Disciplinary Action: Any additional disciplinary action subsequent to probation will be referred to the Citizenship Committee for evaluation of student's A+ status.

Probationary Period: If a student receives any additional disciplinary actions while on probation, the decision to remove the student from the program will be made by the A+ Coordinator. If removed, the student will have the right to appeal the decision through the appeal process.

Appeals: Appeals will be addressed through the Citizenship Committee. Students and their parents/guardians will have 10 calendar days to appeal any decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the A+ Coordinator. Upon receiving a written appeal, the A+ coordinator will convene the A+ Citizenship Committee composed of the 2011 Administrative Team.

CITIZENSHIP AGREEMENT A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

All A+ Program participants must sign and return this acknowledgement of the A+ Schools Program Citizenship Guidelines.

We have received, studied, and understand the A+ Schools Program Citizenship Guidelines as stated above and in the Program guidelines and requirements.

Student Signature: _____ Student Name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

This agreement must be on file to complete student's enrollment in the A+ Schools Program.

A+ Agreement

A part of the A+ Schools Program is that a student who qualifies according to the following criteria and continues his/her education at a Missouri Public Community College or Vocational-Technical School is eligible for state reimbursed tuition (referred to as the A+ School financial incentive). To be eligible, each student must enter into a written agreement with the school and:

1. Have attended a designated A+ School for three (3) consecutive years prior to high school graduation;
2. Have graduated from high school with a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;
3. Must score Proficient or higher on the Algebra I EOC test:(new for class of 2015)
4. Have at least a 95% attendance record for the four year period, (not missing more than 34 days during those 4 years);
5. Have performed 50 hours of unpaid tutoring of younger students and is supervised by a district employee; 25% can be job shadowing (new for class of 2015)
6. Have maintained a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs (including alcohol) or acts of violence;
7. Have filled out and submitted the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form (Prior to April 1);
8. Registered for Selective Service, if applicable.

I understand that failure to complete the FAFSA and, if required, the US Military Selective Service registration will jeopardize the receipt of A+ Financial incentives.

To maintain eligibility, each participating student must:

1. Attend on a full-time basis a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school.
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 points or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Complete the FAFSA by April 1 of each year.

By signing below, the students and parents/guardians are indicating they have been informed by the Eldon R-1 School District of the criteria for students participation in the A+ Schools Student Financial Incentive Program. Permission is hereby given for the release of A+ Schools Program information, including school records, to the institutions chosen by the student as well as to DESE, as required by law.

_____ and Eldon High School enter into this written A+ student financial incentive agreement.
(Student Name---print)

(Student Signature) (Date) (Parent Name) (Date)

(SSN# -- Required) (Expected Year of Graduation) (D.O.B.)

(Home Address --include City & State) (Home Phone Number)

The tuition incentive will be made available only after the student has made a documented good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. The tuition will only be made to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition.
The period of eligibility shall be for a maximum period of two (2) years, (six semesters) during the four (4) year period immediately following graduation. A+ benefits end upon receiving a degree or certificate.
The student financial incentive program is dependent upon Eldon High School maintaining A+ designation and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education receiving the state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

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

Steven R. Henderson **Date**

A+ Tutoring Students – Information Form

Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number: _____

Supervising Teacher: _____

Supervising Teacher Room : _____

Supervising Teacher School: _____

A+ Tutoring Transportation Consent Form:

Only needed if they plan to Serve at another Campus

Dear Parent or Guardian and Student,

At times it becomes necessary to use private vehicles to transport students to and from school-sponsored activities. When this occurs, the school district requires that the student and their parent or guardian sign the Private Transportation Release Consent Form that appears below:

Name of Activity: _____

Location of Tutoring: _____

Semester/ year of tutoring: _____

Name of A+ Coordinator : _____

My child, _____, has my permission to travel from school property (or other location) to this activity by private transportation, either as the driver or as a passenger in a private automobile driven by another student, parent, or other person. I understand and acknowledge that the Eldon R-1 School District will have no financial or legal responsibility for injuries arising out of such travel. I also understand that the Eldon R-1 School District has no responsibility for determining whether the private transportation provider is insured.

By signing this form, I hereby release the Eldon R-1 School District, as well as its directors, officers, administrators, employees, and other agents of all liability for any and all injuries arising from my child's travel to this activity via private transportation. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Eldon R-1 School District, as well as its directors, officers, administrators, employees, and other agents, against any claims asserted by my child as a result of his or her travel to this activity via private transportation.

Parent or Guardian

Parent or Guardian

Date

Date

TO BE SIGNED BY STUDENT

I acknowledge that the Eldon R-1 School District will have no financial or legal responsibility for injuries arising out of my travel from school (or other location) to this activity. I further acknowledge that I have a responsibility to travel directly from school (or other location) to this activity and that failure to report to this activity on time may result in discipline, up to and including possible dismissal from this activity. I further acknowledge that inappropriate conduct during travel to and from this activity may result in such discipline, as well as additional discipline under the Board of Education Policy, as such policy applies to misconduct in connection with school activities, whether on or away from District Property.

Student Signature

Date