

## **Attendance Expectations for the A+ Program**

The A+ program requires students to achieve a 95% cumulative attendance rate by graduation. Attendance is calculated by the minute and based on the number of minutes you are in school.

### **Absences that do NOT count against your attendance:**

- Tardies
- School sponsored field trips, marked as “field trip”, e.g., sports events, school-sponsored college visits, field trips, etc.

### **Absences that DO count against your attendance:**

- Non-school sponsored college visits
- Absences marked as “medical”
- Absences marked as “excused”
- Absences marked as “parent excused”
- Truancies/Skips or unexcused absences
- Suspensions
- Personal/Family emergency or vacation

### **Unavoidable Absences and the Appeals Process:**

There are situations that are beyond an individual student’s control, e.g., car accidents, surgeries, family emergencies, chronic illnesses, funerals, court appearances etc. that might cause your attendance percentage to fall below the required 95% attendance rate. If this happens, A+ provides an appeal process in April of your senior year.

- The A+ appeals process focuses on students whose attendance falls slightly below the required attendance percentage for the A+ Program; but who can document acceptable reasons for those absences.
- Students who request an attendance waiver are expected to appear before the A+ Appeals Board to present their case and provide appropriate documentation for the Board’s consideration.

### **Monitoring attendance during high school:**

- Schedule any absences, e.g., doctor’s appointments, vacations, college visits, to minimize time out of school. The state counts attendance minutes, so even missing one class may affect your attendance percentage.
- Make sure to document your absences with your attendance office throughout your high school career. Make sure that your absences are marked with a reason, e.g., medical, court, family emergency, etc. Keep copies of these documents that could be useful
- Keep copies of important documentation of your absences, throughout your high school career, after presenting them to your attendance office. These documents will be useful should you need to go through the appeals process.

### **Communication**

Please regularly monitor your school email, the daily announcements, and the Hickman web site for information and deadlines for the A+ Program throughout the school year.

# A+ Citizenship Expectations

Students participating in the A+ Schools Program must maintain a record of “good citizenship” to qualify for post-secondary financial assistance. Good citizenship is demonstrated by respect for school, community, and self. Any student who participates in the A+ Schools Program must be a creditable citizen and be judged so by the proper school authority certifying the list of students for participation.

A student whose character or conduct reflects credit upon him/herself or his/her school is considered a creditable citizen and is therefore eligible to participate in the A+ Schools Program. His/her conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. **Students who participate in the A+ Schools Program should remember the financial rewards of the Student Financial Incentive, and the individual discipline and responsibilities that come with it. The rewards are great: The A+ Program provides money to help qualified students pay for tuition at a public two-year community college or career/technical school in Missouri.** The A+ Program may provide these educational incentives 1) provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature or 2) subject to state funding approval.

## **Citizenship Component**

An important component of the A+ Schools Program is the fostering of good citizenship in our district’s students. A student demonstrates good citizenship by showing respect for self, law, property, and the rights of others. Students have not demonstrated good citizenship if they have:

- *Pled guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) or been convicted or found guilty of a felony or violation of the Safe Schools Act.*
- *Received school discipline for being under the influence, distribution of, or possession of alcohol or drugs.*
- *Accumulated a disproportionate number of out-of-school consequences (such as Out of School Suspension, ACE placement, etc.) during their high school career.*

## **Participation Agreement, Discipline and Appeal**

All students wishing to participate in the A+ Program must submit a completed A+ participation agreement. If the coordinator determines that a student who has submitted a participation agreement has violated the terms of that agreement, district policies, or procedures regarding A+ participation, the coordinator will notify the student in writing of the need to appeal the disqualifications to the student’s A+ Coordinator who will, upon parental/student request, arrange for a school-based appeal board comprised of the A+ Coordinator and other applicable school personnel (i.e. counselors, assistant principal, teachers, etc.) to hear the case. Upon completion of the appeal, the A+ Coordinator will notify the student and student’s parents/guardians of the appeal outcome.

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