



## David H. Hickman High School

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please read this information carefully. I hope all of our students will take advantage of the **A+ Schools Program**.

Parents and students should understand that this program is available to **all** new freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors even if some may not elect to accept the tuition reimbursement option of the program.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the A+ Schools Program, please complete the application and return to Hickman or mail the application to the address listed below.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Tony Gagnani, Principal  
Hickman High School

For more information,  
contact

**Dr. Susan Matthews**  
**A+ Coordinator**

David H. Hickman High School  
1104 North Providence  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 214-3000 x 43450 or  
smatthews@cpsk12.org

**Tiffany Hall**  
**A+ Secretary**  
(573) 214-3000 x43426  
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**A+ Office is located in the  
North Office**

# A+ Schools Program

David H. Hickman High School

August 2020

## A+ Schools Program Description

Under Governor Mel Carnahan's 1993 Outstanding Schools Act, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education established the A+ Schools Program. This program is designed to guide students in a rigorous program of academic and technical education that will prepare them for the workplace, post-secondary vocational/technical training, or college.

The A+ Schools Program operates with three clear goals for students.

1. Ensure that all students graduate from high school
2. Ensure that all students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and has identified learning expectations
3. Ensure that all students proceed from high school graduation to a college, a post-secondary vocational/technical school, the military, or a high wage job with workplace skill development opportunities

In 1992 Governor Carnahan stated, "We must provide them with an exciting and rigorous program of academic and technical education that leads to community college or workplace skill development." The A+ Schools Program is designed to do just that.

Since Hickman became an A+ School in 2002, hundreds of students have qualified for the tuition reimbursement program. Please make sure your student seriously considers this opportunity for earning funds for post-secondary tuition.

## Requirements for A+ Tuition Grant

The A+ Schools Program provides students with two years of tuition to any Missouri community college or career/technical college. To be eligible, each student must have entered an agreement with a designated A+ School and have met the following requirements upon graduation:

- ⇒Attend a designated A+ School for three years prior to graduation
- ⇒Have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- ⇒Have at least a 95% attendance record for grades 9-12
- ⇒Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring coordinated by the A+ office
- ⇒Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol
- ⇒Earn a proficient or higher score on the Alg. 1 EOC or earn an equivalent ACT Math sub score 7
- ⇒Attend a Missouri community college or career/technical school on a fulltime basis up to an Associate Degree or the equivalent (see application for further information)

## TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

- A+ students who would like to tutor this fall **must have A+ Tutoring on their schedule**.
- All tutors must complete a training session prior to starting their work.
- Please check your student email for more information about accessing training. S
- Students will be notified of their placements after completing the training.

## 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, deans, 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.

### **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.

## **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+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM STUDENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVE APPLICATION

Pending adequate state funds, A+ certified students will receive tuition reimbursement while attending a Missouri public community college or career/technical school on a full-time basis for up to an Associate Degree or the equivalent. This scholarship will cover the unpaid balance of tuition after federal post-secondary financial assistance has been applied. The tuition amount eligible for reimbursement is capped at the published standard per credit hour tuition rate charged by the State Technical College of Missouri. **Certification is reliant on meeting each of the requirements below prior to high school graduation, except for the math score that may be achieved during the 4-year window after graduation:**

1. Attend a designated A+ School for three (3) years prior to high school graduation.
2. Graduate from an A+ designated high school with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Have at least 95% attendance record for grades 9-12.
4. Perform and document fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring during your high school career coordinated by HHS A+ Office (up to 12.5 hours can consist of job shadowing experiences).
5. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol
6. Earn a score of Proficient or higher on the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment or an equivalent math sub score on the ACT.

The A+ Schools Program student financial incentive can be applied toward up to 105% of the credit hours required for the program in which you are enrolled at a participating post-secondary institution in Missouri during the four-year period after graduation from high school. To access the funds, participants must:

- Submit a Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) form
- Have registered for Selective Service (male U.S. citizen over age 18)
- Attend a Missouri public community college or career/technical school on a full-time basis
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident

- The Columbia Public School District does not discriminate based on age, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. This policy regards admission/access to treatment/employment in its programs and activities.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Year \_\_\_\_\_

High Schools Attended/Attending (circle all that apply):

Hickman HS    Rock Bridge HS    Battle HS    Other \_\_\_\_\_ Date of transfer \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- *By signing this application, the student and parent/guardian certify that they have read, understand, and agree to the A+ Attendance and Citizenship Guidelines.*