

A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Columbia School District shall participate in Missouri's A+ Schools Program. The State Board of Education has designated Hickman High School and Rock Bridge High School as A+ schools so that participating students may qualify for state-paid tuition reimbursement to attend any public community college or career/technical school in Missouri.

The district will follow the requirements as established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the implementation and administration of and participation in the A+ Schools Program. The district shall employ an A+ Schools Program coordinator no less than half time, as required by law.

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:

1. Pled guilty or *nolo contendere* (no contest) to, received a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended execution of sentence for, or been convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony.
2. Unlawfully used or possessed drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol on or off school property during the three-year period immediately prior to graduation.
3. Had an out-of-school suspension during the four-year period immediately prior to graduation.
4. Violated the district's rules governing academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.).

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 or district policies or procedures regarding A+ participation, the coordinator will notify the student in writing and may put the student on probation or expel the student from the program. The student or the student's parents/guardians may appeal expulsions from this program, in accordance with written district procedures, to the Board of Education or to a committee of Board members appointed by the president of the Board and given the authority to act for the Board. The Board or the Board's committee will hear the student's appeal in closed session and will notify the student of its decision.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: 01/14/2008

Revised: 11/09/2009

Cross Refs: IGBD, At-Risk Students

Legal Refs: § 160.545, RSMo.
5 C.S.R. 50-350.040

Columbia School District No. 93, Columbia, Missouri