



DORA R-III SCHOOL A+ HANDBOOK

Education Equals Success

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Dora R-III School District

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What is the A+ Program?

The A+ Program is a scholarship incentive. Successful completion of the program qualifies graduates for 2 years of free tuition, general fees and up to 50% for books (provided state legislature provides funding) at any public Missouri community college, vocational or technical school.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents, students and employees of this district a clear understanding of the requirements for achieving A+ eligibility.

All information provided in this handbook is subject to change based upon Missouri Legislative approval.

Please visit <https://dhewd.mo.gov> for the latest qualifications or more information.

A+ Program

Eligibility Requirements

based on State of Missouri Department of Education guidelines

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The student agrees to:

- 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 at least 2 years of your high school career.
- Have an overall unweighted grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for grades 9-12.
- 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.
- 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.

A+ Program

Eligibility Requirements

based on Dora R-III School District guidelines

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The student agrees to:

- Have on file an A+ contract that is signed by both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the participating student.
- The student must attend Dora High School for 2 years prior to graduation or the student must have transferred from a designated A+ school to the Dora School District.
- Graduate high school with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above in a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate high school with a cumulative attendance rate of at least 95%.
- Practice good citizenship both inside and outside of the school setting. Good citizenship is composed of honesty, responsibility, respect for others and obedience of rules/laws.
- Perform 50 hours of school sponsored, school supervised, unpaid tutoring or mentoring.

Mentoring/Tutoring

In accordance with the A+ Schools Program, the primary objective is to enhance the success of all students served by the Dora R-III School District. This will be done by providing quality mentoring opportunities.

- A criteria of the A+ Schools Program requires students seeking A+ status to perform fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for other students.
- Tutoring/mentoring must be school sponsored and school supervised. Hours must be signed and verified by a district employee.
- Time sheets must be turned in to the A+ Coordinator on a weekly basis. The responsibility of turning in the time sheets belongs solely to the student.
- Each student will earn a grade based on completing hours and their supervising teacher's evaluation.
- The A+ student will be held to a high standard of attendance, accountability and confidentiality.

Violation of Conduct Sequence

Activities within the school setting are an important part of determining good standing. Poor choices resulting in suspension (OSS/ISS) will result in the following action:

■ ISS/Saturday School	1 st Offense	Warning
	2 nd Offense	Probation
	3 rd Offense	Loss of eligibility
■ OSS	1 st Offense	Probation
	2 nd Offense	Loss of eligibility
■ Expulsion	1 st Offense	Loss of eligibility

Good conduct also extends outside the school setting. By signing the A+ contract, program participants and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to the release of any records from juvenile services/adult law enforcement to the Dora School District. This information will be used in evaluating the citizenship of the applicant.

■ Misdemeanor	1 st Offense	Probation
	2 nd Offense	Loss of eligibility
■ Felony	1 st Offense	Loss of eligibility

***For information on the appeal process see page 10.*

Student Conduct-Probation

The following offenses as stated in the student conduct section of the Dora High School Handbook will result in the Principal and/or A+ Coordinator initiating the student be placed on probation for 1 calendar year, from the date of incident, from the A+ Schools Program:

- Persistent office referrals for classroom misbehavior
- Fighting (case-by-case evaluation)
- Misconduct in extra-curricular activities
- Leaving campus without permission
- Persistent school bus misconduct
- Cheating/Plagiarism
- Trespassing
- Sexual harassment
- Cyber Bullying/Bullying
- Possession/transfer/use of tobacco products
- *This list is not comprehensive and can include other student conduct offenses.*

* The conduct standing of an A+ student transferring from another district will be upheld as an entrance consideration into Dora School District's A+ Schools Program.

Student Conduct-Removal

The following offenses as stated in the student conduct section of the Dora High School Handbook and in compliance with the Safe Schools Act will result in the Principal and/or A+ Coordinator initiating immediate removal from the A+ Schools Program:

- Using/selling/transferring alcohol/drugs/narcotics on or off school property
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Assault
- Robbery, extortion, theft or possession of stolen property
- Possession of a weapon (real or look-a-like)
- Vandalism
- Indecent exposure or sexual misconduct
- Bomb threat
- Any act which is reported to law enforcement officials
- *This list is not comprehensive and can include other student conduct offenses.*

* The conduct standing of an A+ student transferring from another district will be upheld as an entrance consideration into Dora School District's A+ Schools Program.

Appeals Process

If a student receives an insufficient status statement by mail that shows one or more of the requirements as insufficient, the student will use the following guidelines to determine when to submit their appeal & additional documentation to the A+ Coordinator.

Citizenship

Grades 9-11: No later than the last day of the year for which the insufficient status was applied.

Grade 12: No later than March 31st of their Senior year.

Attendance & GPA

Attendance &/or GPA shall only be reviewed by the A+ Advisory Committee during a student's Senior year. An appeal is to be submitted no later than March 31st of their Senior year.

Algebra I EOC

Testing may not be appealed based on DESE eligibility requirements.

If an appeal is not filed by the timelines set above a waiver will not be considered by the A+ Advisory Committee. If the appeal is granted, the student's status will be considered sufficient on a Probationary status for the requirement(s) reviewed by the committee. Additional offenses after an appeal will result in permanent disqualification. Provided the written appeal and proper documentation is received within the deadline, an A+ Advisory Committee will meet to determine whether a waiver will be issued. The student may also be asked to attend the meeting.

The Appeal Review Committee will consist of:

- A+ Coordinator
- High School Principal
- Counselor
- 2 A+ Advisory Committee Members

Notification of decisions made by the A+ Advisory Committee will be provided to the student in-person & to their parent/guardian by mail. *The committee's decision is final.*

Postgraduate Incentives and Responsibilities

based on State of Missouri Department of Education guidelines

POSTGRADUATE INCENTIVES

The State of Missouri agrees to:

- Reimburse the cost of general fees and up to fifty percent (50%) of the book cost subject to legislative appropriation.
- Accept enrollment in any Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school.
- Guarantee benefits for a period of up to four years (48 months) after the student completes the A+ Program and graduates from an A+ School.
- Subject to Legislative approval/funding.

POSTGRADUATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The student agrees to:

- Attend, on a full-time basis, a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school.
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Good Faith Effort to Secure Funding

The A+ Schools Program requires students and parent(s)/guardian(s) to first make a good faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary financial assistance funds that **do not** require repayment.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must complete, sign and send in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov