



# **Lathrop School District**

## **Student Manual**

This manual contains forms for the A+ program. Students are also welcome to obtain copies of forms as needed from Mrs. Pritchett, A+ Coordinator.

### **Steps for getting enrolled**

- 1) A+ Program Forms (p. 10) will be distributed to students during first semester of your freshmen year or a student can come by the A+ Office to obtain a copy.
- 2) Once the agreement (p. 10) is completed, the student will return the form to the A+ Coordinator and receive a list of dates for tutor training, Parent and Student Agreements & an A+ Tutoring Log (p. 11-13).
- 3) Once the student has completed tutor training, they will turn in the A+ Tutoring forms (p. 11-13) during the tutor training or to the A+ Coordinator.
- 4) In cooperation with the A+ Coordinator, the student will set up the first date of tutoring at a site. The student will record all dates and activities on the Tutor Log Form (p. 13).
- 5) Tutor Logs (p. 13) will be turned in to the A+ Coordinator at the end of each semester. Students can get new Tutor Logs from the A+ Coordinator, as needed.
- 6) Students are encouraged to check with the A+ Coordinator each semester to make sure they are maintaining their A+ status.

### **Other Forms**

Students may obtain the Intent to Access Tuition Benefits Form during the second semester of their senior year; it should be completed and returned to the A+ Office. Students will utilize the Citizenship & Attendance Appeal Form(s) only if they do not meet the Citizenship or Attendance requirements as stated in this manual by their senior year—please read related pages in this manual.

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## **A+ Coordinator Contact Information**

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## **Purpose of the Manual**

In an effort to make college or vocational education available to every Missouri high school graduate, the Missouri General Assembly established the A+ Schools Program as part of the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993.

Graduates of designated A+ schools who successfully complete the requirements of the program may be eligible to receive two years of free tuition to a designated public community college, vocational or technical institution in Missouri. ***All funds are subject to Missouri General Assembly allocating monies for the A+ Program.***

The purpose of this manual is to provide students, parents and staff with information about the guidelines and policies of the A+ Program in the Lathrop R-II School District. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that designation is achieved and maintained. It is the responsibility of students and parents to read, understand and comply with program requirements.

## **Goals of the A+ Program**

1. All students will graduate from high school.
2. All students will complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified and measurable learner expectation.
3. All students will proceed from high school graduation to a traditional college or post-secondary vocational or technical school, or high wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.

## **Participation Requirements**

- The high school from which the student graduates must meet and maintain all the requirements for A+ schools designation.
- State funding must be available. As with any State program, the A+ Schools Program is subject to the political process of sustaining and maintaining a budget.
- The student must meet all the criteria outlined in the A+ Schools Program and the program agreement in which the student and parent/guardian will sign.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the A+ tuition benefit, students must be certified by the high school. To qualify for certification, students must sign an A+ agreement and successfully complete the following requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or lawfully present in the U.S.
- Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend an A+ designated school for three years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to graduation
- Graduate with an unweighted, unrounded cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate with a minimum 95% ADA (Average Daily Attendance) record (over 8 semesters)
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring to other students in the district, of which up to 25% may include job shadowing.
- Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
- Model good citizenship at school and in the community
- Avoid the use of illegal drugs and alcohol
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

## **To maintain A+ eligibility:**

- Enroll and attend a Missouri Community college or post-secondary vocational/technical school on a full-time basis and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Be seeking a degree at the institution in which you are enrolled.
- Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity.
- Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **EACH** academic year. If you are attending an institution that does not participate in Title IV programs you must complete the FAFSA4caster, which is a tool for estimating your level of need for federal financial aid.

## **A+ Program Enrollment**

A+ participation is voluntary. Students may participate in the program by completing and returning an A+ Agreement to the A+ Coordinator. Agreements are available from the A+ Coordinator.

Students should try to begin their participation in the A+ Program at the beginning of their freshman year. Enrolling in the program early allows students and parents to focus on the goals of the program.

A file of active and inactive A+ Program Agreements is maintained in the A+ Coordinator's office.

There is no specific deadline for enrolling in the A+ Program. A student can enroll at any time as long as the student realizes that he/she must complete all program requirements, including the 50 hours of tutoring and mentoring.

### **Notification of A+ Status**

The A+ Coordinator will review all records of graduating A+ students and will have a mandatory A+ Senior Review with all A+ seniors. All A+ documentation must be turned in to the A+ Coordinator no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. After graduation, the names of eligible students will be submitted to the Principal and Counselor as well as to the state A+ Office. Students and parents will be notified and the student's transcript will reflect A+ status.

Student A+ Status letters will be sent to the parents shortly after the end of each semester.

### **Tuition Benefits**

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the program are eligible to receive tuition reimbursement for 105% of the hours required for the program in which the student is currently enrolled at a designated community college or vocational/technical (state funded) school in Missouri.

Early graduation is discouraged. A+ participants who elect to graduate early are not eligible to access A+ tuition benefits until their respective class has graduated. To maintain eligibility (at college) students must be enrolled as full-time students as defined by the post-secondary institution, enrolled in an approved program, and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Participants are under no obligation to use the A+ tuition incentive. The tuition incentive is earned by each individual and is not transferable to any other student.

Receipt of private scholarships will not affect any student's eligibility to participate in the A+ program.

A "good faith" attempt has been made when the student has completed and filed a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid with the college or vocational/technical institution.

Financial need is not a factor in determining student eligibility for the A+ tuition incentive. Participants will have up to four years (from the date of high school graduation) to access the A+ tuition incentive.

State funding must be available. As with any State program, the A+ Schools Program is subject to the political process of sustaining and maintaining a budget.

## **Grade Point Requirement**

Eligible participants must graduate with a cumulative minimum unweighted, unrounded grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grade scale. For purposes of this program, grade point average represents the actual figure and is not rounded (2.499 is not 2.5).

It is the responsibility of each participant to closely monitor his/her grade point average. Final determination of A+ eligibility cannot be made until an A+ participant graduates and his/her final GPA is calculated.

## **Attendance**

A+ participants are expected to attend school regularly. A+ participants must graduate with a minimum cumulative (grades 9-12) attendance rate of 95%. The A+ Program makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

Attendance is based upon Tuesday through Friday when school is in regular session. Only the days and times, which are calculated for Average Daily Attendance (ADA), will be used to determine the 95% attendance requirement. Attendance is calculated in minutes therefore coming to school late will affect a student's overall attendance percentage.

The A+ attendance policy allows relief in cases where the absence was beyond the control of the A+ participant. Request for Attendance Waivers must be filed in accordance with the established policy guidelines. Each A+ participant should read and understand the attendance policy.

It is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance. Semester updates will be mailed to the homes of the A+ participants.

### **Attendance Waiver Guidelines**

Documentation to support a request for an A+ attendance waiver must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator's Office no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year. Documentation must include specific dates accompanied by the signature(s) of the appropriate person(s).

#### **Reason for absence**

Hospitalization  
Chronic health problems  
Court Appearance  
Funeral  
  
Religious Holiday  
Personal/family calamity  
Catastrophic illness/injury

#### **Documentation Required**

Physician's letter  
Physician's letter  
Court letter  
Parent letter and copy of Death Certificate, obituary or memorial pamphlet  
Minister's letter  
Parent and school counselor's letter  
Physician's letter

***Attendance Waivers will NOT be granted for the following:***

- Truancy
- Suspension
- Personal/Family vacation
- Routine Doctor Visits
- Dentist or Orthodontist visits
- Transportation (unless late bus)

A+ attendance requirements are not to be confused with the general attendance requirements as printed in the Lathrop High School Handbook.

### **Attendance Appeals**

Students in the A+ Program who feel they have been declared ineligible unfairly may appeal to the A+ School Appeals Committee. In cases of appeal the student/parent/guardian must notify the A+ School Coordinator in writing of 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 in writing. The A+ Schools Appeals Committee will consist of the following individuals: principal in charge of the A+ Schools Program, the A+ school coordinator, and the counselor. The principal from the school of the student who is appealing will facilitate the appeal. Appeals will be considered at semester or the end of the school year when the student is declared ineligible.

After the Appeals Committee reaches a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify the parents by letter within five calendar days.

Students may appeal the A+ Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent.

### **A+ Tutoring**

A+ participants must perform a minimum total of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring. For purposes of the program, community service is not considered to be an acceptable substitute for tutoring.

Tutoring must be performed in one (or more) of the public school buildings that are part of the Lathrop School district in an approved program. Tutoring must be performed with Lathrop public school students.

Tutoring time must be documented on the official A+ Tutoring Log. These logs are available in the A+ Coordinator's office. *No other record will be accepted.* All tutoring logs should be turned in at the end of each quarter.



Tutoring guidelines for the A+ Program need to be picked up in the A+ Coordinator's office.

The participant is responsible for maintaining his/her tutoring log accurately, obtaining the necessary signatures and for submitting the log to the A+ Coordinator in a timely manner. No credit will be awarded for logs that are misplaced or stolen - no exceptions.

The student is allowed to count 25% (no more than 13 hours) of student tutoring hours from job shadowing. For a student to use job shadowing hours as part of their tutoring hours, they must complete the job shadowing verification form and turn it in to the A+ Coordinator's office.

### **Illegal Drugs/ Alcohol**

Any involvement with illegal drugs or alcohol (use, manufacture, possession, transport, distribution, under the influence, or sale) at school or in the community will result in the immediate and permanent removal of the participant from the A+ program.

A mandatory requirement of the A+ program is for the student to be enrolled in the LHS drug testing program. A signed form must be on file in the high school office. Should the student test positive on a drug testing during their high school career, they could be removed from the A+ program permanently.

Involvement will have been established when the participant is disciplined for a drug or alcohol related offense or when the participant is charged and pleads no contest or is found guilty of crimes that relate to the use, manufacture, possession, transportation, distribution, or sale of a controlled substance, including alcohol.

### **FAFSA**

A good faith effort has been made when the participant and his/her parents have completed and filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Government. The information found on the FAFSA is required by post-secondary institutions to complete the enrollment process.

FAFSA forms are available in the counseling office or online (<http://wwwfafsa.ed.gov/>) in December of the year of graduation. Application on the Internet is also available. Students must bring a copy of the first page of their SAR (Student Aid Report) to the A+ Coordinator, no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of their graduation year.

Participants may submit the FAFSA anytime after midnight, January 1, of the year in which they will graduate.

## **Accessing Tuition Benefits**

It is critical to the integrity of the A+ Program that A+ participants pay strict attention to all the guidelines, rules and policies that govern the program.

Some control is given to local school districts in establishing policy and administering the A+ Program. Most of the rules governing the administration of the program are found in state statutes and are not subject to local amendment.

The tuition benefits are not automatically bestowed on A+ participants who have successfully completed the A+ requirements. To be eligible for tuition benefits the following guidelines must be followed:

1. Graduating A+ participants must complete and submit the Request for A+ Tuition Benefits form. The window for submitting this form is April 1-15 of the year of graduation. The form is available from the A+ Coordinator.
2. The A+ Coordinator will verify the status of each A+ participant and certify each A+ participant who is eligible for A+ tuition benefits.
3. A+ participants will be notified, in writing, as to approval or denial of their eligibility to receive A+ tuition benefits. If a participant is denied eligibility, the participant will be provided with the reason for the denial.
4. The names and social security numbers of the A+ graduates eligible for tuition benefits will be forwarded to the appropriate local and state agencies.

A+ eligible graduates must inform the post-secondary institution to which they have made application of their intent to use the tuition benefits. The institution will prepare the necessary paperwork and bill the State of Missouri.



## Lathrop High School A+ Schools Program Agreement

LHS students who graduate with A+ status may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis. The A+ program may provide these educational incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature. This funding may be for the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and is subject to legislative appropriation. **Eligible A+ students must meet ALL of the requirements below:**

1. Sign an A+ Program Agreement at least one semester prior to graduation.
2. Attend a designated A+ high school for three (3) consecutive years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to high school graduation.
3. Graduate from a designated A+ high school with an unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
4. Graduate with a minimum cumulative 95% ADA (Average Daily Attendance) record over a four year period.
5. Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
6. Perform and document fifty (50) hours of unpaid district tutoring or mentoring, coordinated by the LHS A+ Coordinator.
7. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the student tutoring hours may be from job shadowing.
8. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.
9. Apply for non-payback scholarships by completing a FAFSA (free application for federal students aid).

**To maintain eligibility, participants must:**

1. Attend a designated Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school and
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

In addition to the preceding eligibility requirements, the Missouri Department of Higher Education may impose additional requirements prior to the distribution of A+ funds. The Lathrop R-II School District does not discriminate on the basis of 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Current Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

The student and parent/guardian must sign this A+ Schools Program Agreement before the student will be considered for participation in the A+ Schools Program. By signing this agreement the student and parent/guardian certify that they have read, understand and agree to the A+ Guidelines listed above.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Lathrop Tutoring/Mentoring Agreement

The following steps must be completed to become an approved A+ tutor/mentor in the Lathrop R-II School District:

- Submit completed agreement, parent permission slip
- Attend A+ Tutoring/Mentoring Training
- Meet with A+ Coordinator to select tutoring/mentoring assignment

Please answer each question completely and honestly. If you need extra space to respond, attach additional paper.

1. What extra curricular activities are you involved in?
2. Please describe any special experiences or abilities you have which will assist you in working with younger students.
3. Explain how you will represent the A+ program well during your tutoring/mentoring experience.
4. List on the back any training/experience you have received in working with children. List dates, length of training/experience, place of training/experience, contact person.

I agree to participate and abide by the guidelines set up for the A+ tutoring/mentoring program. I understand the important role that good attendance and scholastic achievement play in this program and that I will be held accountable for my actions. I further understand that I can be removed at any time from this tutoring/mentoring opportunity should my attendance or behavior not meet with school policy and/or A+ Schools requirements.

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A+ Participant's Signature

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Date



**Lathrop A+ Schools**  
**Tutoring/Mentoring Agreement**  
**Parent/Guardian**  
**Permission Slip/Recommendation**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Your student is applying for the opportunity to tutor/mentor through the A+ Schools Program. As part of the process, he/she will participate in a training session conducted by Lathrop R-II personnel. Please provide a paragraph indicating your level of support and why you believe your student would be a good tutor/mentor in the A+ School Program.

I understand that I am responsible for my student's transportation to and from tutoring/mentoring activities. I hereby give permission and support to my student to participate in the Lathrop A+ School Tutoring/Mentoring Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH TUTORING/MENTORING AGREEMENT



## Lathrop A+ Program Tutoring Log

A+ participants must perform a minimum of 50 hours of tutoring/mentoring prior to graduation. I further understand that I can be removed at any time from this tutoring opportunity should my attendance or behavior not meet with school policy and/or A+ Schools requirements.

- Part of an approved program under the direct supervision of a certificated Lathrop Schools staff member. Must be approved by A+ Coordinator before beginning.
- Performed in the building of the Lathrop R-II School District.
- Performed with Lathrop R-II public school students.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

All tutoring/mentoring hours must be documented on this log and verified by the signature of the supervising teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator Signature

Date	Activity Description	Initials of Student Tutored	Time Start	Time End	Total Time	Teacher's Signature	Tutoring location
Student Name: _____				Date: _____			

**Total Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*I understand that it is my responsibility to log my tutoring hours each time I tutor and turn them in to the A+ Coordinator at the end of each semester. I further understand that I can be removed at any time from this tutoring opportunity should my attendance or behavior not meet with school policy and/or A+ Schools requirements.*



**Lathrop R-II School District**  
**A+ Schools Program Attendance Appeal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ (required by the State of Missouri)

Current G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Absences:**

Grade 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Absences: grades 9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

All information, including social security number, must be provided. Please print or type the information. Attach a list of specific date(s), the reason for the absence, the appropriate documentation and signature along with this form. **\*Failure to return this appeal by the following deadline may jeopardize your A+ eligibility.**

Return to the A+ Coordinator by: \_\_\_\_\_.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **Lathrop R-II School District** **A+ Program Citizenship Policy**

### **Lathrop R-II School District Citizenship Standards:**

Participation in the A+ program is a privilege and not a right; therefore, the Lathrop School District requires students to adhere to standards of behavior, which will bring credit to students, the A+ program, the school, and the community. Students who represent the Lathrop School District must demonstrate good citizenship and conduct at all time. The Lathrop School District requires student behavior to be in compliance with school board policy, with the school's Student Handbook Regulations, and public laws. Behavior not in compliance with these policies may result in the student's loss of eligibility from the A+ program.

### **I. Citizenship Requirements for the A+ Program**

- A. Students who sign a contract to participate in the A+ program are to maintain good citizenship while enrolled in high school.
- B. Students who violate the district's Alcohol/Drug policy during the contract time are subject to and will automatically be removed from the A+ incentive program.
- C. Students who are convicted of a felony will not qualify.
- D. Students who commit other violations which may involve violent behavior, insubordination, failure to follow directions, use of inappropriate language, smoking, dishonesty, etc., which results in a suspension may jeopardize their A+ status and be subject to a review by the principal and the A+ Citizenship Committee.
  1. The A+ Citizenship Committee will consist of the following:
    - Principal
    - A+ Coordinator
    - Counselor
- E. Any student accumulating up to ten days of suspension (out of school suspension) during their high school career for offenses other than alcohol/drugs will lose A+ eligibility.
  1. Once in the program, after any ISS or OSS incident, a student will have to fill out a Citizenship Appeal Form.

### **II. Citizenship Review Process**

- A. Upon school suspension, students and their parents will be notified of the student's jeopardized A+ status.



- B. The Principal will provide disciplinary information and the status of contracted students to the A+ Coordinator on a semester basis. The updated information will be used to assess the citizenship requirement of each student in the Lathrop A+ School Tuition Reimbursement Program.

*Committee will respond in one of the following ways:*

1. A statement will be issued to the student and parents warning them that any referrals related to the above Section I in the following semester will result in an immediate probation status. They will be informed that the status will be reviewed at the end of the semester and a decision made by the Citizenship Committee about whether the student loses eligibility in the program or is placed on probation. If students are identified by administration as chronically disruptive, they will be removed from the program. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, those listed in section I.
2. The student may be removed from the program. If the review team elects to remove a student from the program, the student has the right to appeal first to the building principal, then to the superintendent, and finally to the school board. This appeal may be made no later than one month following removal from the program. Seniors must appeal by May 1, regardless of when they lost eligibility from the program.

I the undersigned have received, studied, and understand the A+ Schools Program citizenship Guidelines. All A+ participants must sign and return this form to the A+ Coordinator.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Lathrop R-II School District**  
**Citizenship Appeal Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your status as an A+ student is in jeopardy as a result of violating the citizenship policy. The citizenship review team has examined your discipline record and finds that additional information is needed in order to determine your future eligibility for the program and the incentive.

**With this form, attach a written explanation as to why you feel you should still receive the A+ incentive. In your explanation you should address the following points:**

- Describe the offense(s) for which you were suspended.
- What will you and what have you done to avoid being in trouble? (Be specific)
- Why should you be allowed to remain in the A+ program?

Return the appeal form and the written explanation to the A+ Coordinator by \_\_\_\_\_. After reviewing your appeal, the committee will determine whether to place you on probation or hold a parent conference to determine your status in the program. **Failure to return this appeal by the deadline will result in your loss of eligibility in the A+ Program.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Lathrop R-II School District**  
**A+ Program**  
**Final Senior Appeal Policy**

In order to qualify for the A+ incentive, a student must meet the following requirements at graduation:

1. 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
2. 95 percent attendance average over the four years.
3. Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam ( this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
4. 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring in a district approved program, 25% of the hours may be from job shadowing.
5. Good citizenship standards, such as refraining from use of drugs/alcohol.
6. Attend an A+ designated school for the final 3 years of high school.
7. Submission of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

By the date of graduation, senior students will be informed by the building A+ Coordinator as to whether they are eligible to receive the incentive according to the above qualifications. Students may appeal the decision of the A+ Coordinator if they believe extraordinary circumstances entitle them to the incentive, even though the attendance and citizenship qualifications have not been met.

The appeal will be received as follows:

- Step One:** Review by the A+ Coordinator
- Step Two:** Review by the High School Principal.
- Step Three:** Review by the Superintendent.

In order to appeal attendance or citizenship, the student must submit, in writing, an explanation of the extraordinary circumstances and the reasons why the appeal to receive the A+ incentive should be granted along with the attendance and/or citizenship appeal form(s). All appeals must be received by the tenth (10) day following the date of graduation of the student's senior year. Students will be informed promptly about the results of their appeals after each step described above. Additional information and a conference may be requested at any time by the review team or Superintendent.



**Lathrop R-II**  
**Intent to Access A+ Tuition Benefits**

NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle)

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

My signature indicates that I have met the requirements of the Lathrop R-II A+ School Program and that I intend to access the A+ tuition benefits that I earned by:

- Attending an A+ school for three consecutive years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to graduation
- Graduating with a minimum, unweighted, unrounded cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Graduating with a minimum attendance rate of 95% over 4 years
- Performing a minimum of 50 hours unpaid tutoring/mentoring, 25% of hours may be used from job shadowing
- Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam ( this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
- Maintaining a record of good citizenship
- Avoiding the use of illegal drugs and alcohol
- Completing and submitting a FAFSA

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have reviewed the A+ participant's records and status and have APPROVED/ DISAPPROVED the participant's request for access to A+ tuition benefits.

**APPROVED:** The appropriate state and local agencies will be notified of the A+ participant's eligibility for tuition benefits.

**DISAPPROVED:** The A+ participant was denied access to A+ benefits for the following reasons(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What does signing the A+ Agreement mean?**

By signing and submitting the A+ agreement, students and their parents are simply indicating an interest in the students' participation in the A+ Program and that they understand the requirements that qualify the students for that program. When an agreement has been signed by all parties and returned, a file will be established for that student and will be located in the A+ Coordinator's office. This file denoted the student's active participation in the A+ Schools Program and will contain all pertinent information relative to the student's eligibility for A+ funds.

- **Does participating in the A+ program restrict a student's choices?**

Participating in the A+ Program DOES NOT in any way restrict a student's educational choices. The A+ Schools Program is designed to provide greater opportunities for students. Signing up will not restrict the options available to a student while in high school or upon graduating from high school.

- **What if an A+ participant decides to attend a four-year college or university?**

There are no repercussions for participating in the A+ Program and completing the student eligibility requirements. Many students will develop plans to attend a four-year college or university following high school. The A+ Schools Scholarship incentive MAY NOT be applied to costs associated with a four-year college or university. Students eligible for A+ tuition benefits may choose to attend a community college for two years, earn an Associates Degree, or simply earn basic credit hours; then transfer those credits to a four-year college/university.

If for whatever reason an A+ eligible student should withdraw from the four-year institution with at least a 2.5 GPA he/she could enroll at a Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school and be eligible for A+ tuition benefits. A+ tuition benefits are available to students for up to four years after the date of their graduation from high school, provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature.

- **What if an A+ participant decides not to attend a community college or vocational or technical school?**

Participation in the A+ Program in no way restricts a student's post high school career or educational opportunities. It is simply a funding resource for post secondary education should the student choose to utilize it. A student who participates in the A+ Program, is NOT required to attend a community college or vocational or technical school.

- **Does participating in the A+ Program guarantee that students will receive the tuition benefits?**

There are at least three factors that will impact the availability of tuition benefits to a particular student. First, the high school from which the student graduates must meet and maintain all the requirements for A+ Schools designation. Second, State funding must be available. Third, the student must meet all the criteria outlined in the A+ Schools Program and the program agreement, which the student signed.

- **Does a student qualify for A+ tuition benefits if his/her average daily attendance is 94.8 or his/her grade point average is 2.47 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation?**

No – The A+ Schools Program does not permit rounding up of GPA percentage. The average daily attendance rate must be figured over a four-year period and must be a solid 95%.