

A+ PROGRAM

The A+ Program was created by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 as an incentive for improving Missouri's high schools.

Goals of the A+ Program:

- All students graduate high school.
- All students complete high school studies that are challenging and that have identified learner expectations.
- All students proceed from high school to college, post-secondary vocational/technical school, or a high wage job.

Participating High Schools are encouraged to

- Reduce the dropout rate.
- Raise academic expectations by eliminating general track courses.
- Provide career pathways for all students.

Student Eligibility:

- 1) Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (verification takes place at the college/university level).
- 2) Attend an A+ high school for two years prior to graduation.
- 3) Graduate from an A+ designated high school with an overall unweighted grade point average of a 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- 4) Maintain a 95% high school attendance record for the 4 year period (attendance is not rounded up).
- 5) Perform 50 documented hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring (25 must be on Parkway property, with Parkway students, supervised by a Parkway staff member). Hours must be submitted by May 1st of the student's graduation year.
 - a. 0-25 hours may be community service through a non-profit organization
 - b. 0-12.5 hours may be job shadowing
- 6) Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- 7) Make a documented good faith effort to secure federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds during the last semester of the senior year so as to obtain the A+ financial incentive (FAFSA).
- 8) Register for Selective Service, if applicable (as required by law).
- 9) Achieve score of proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I end of course exam or a DESE approved end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics.
- 10) To retain this eligibility after high school graduation, I understand that I must enroll and attend on a full-time basis a Missouri public community college or public career/technical school, AND maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Students who meet or exceed these requirements may be eligible to attend a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school tuition-free. A student is eligible to access the funds up to 48 months from high school graduation. Other Missouri post-secondary institutions do not participate in the A+ Schools Program but may also offer financial incentives. Please contact individual colleges/universities for more information.

***Tuition reimbursement is contingent upon availability of state funds. All individuals required to register with the Selective Service must do so to be eligible for state-supported scholarships and programs for financial assistance for post-secondary education. Students must fill out the FAFSA no earlier than January of senior year in order to be eligible for A+ funding at the post-secondary institution. The financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program are dependent upon state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly. The incentives are not the funding responsibility of the Parkway School District. Student financial incentives may be accessed over a 48 month period after graduation and are contingent upon legislative approval. Students must sign up for the A+ Schools Program no later than February 1st of their senior year and complete all requirements no later than May 1st.**

**If you have any questions about the A+ Program, please contact Katie Meyer at kmeyer5@parkwayschools.net For additional information, visit our A+ link on the NHS counseling website.