



## Missouri A+ Schools Program FACT SHEET

August 2009

*Information about the A+ Schools Program is available on the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Web site at [www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus).*

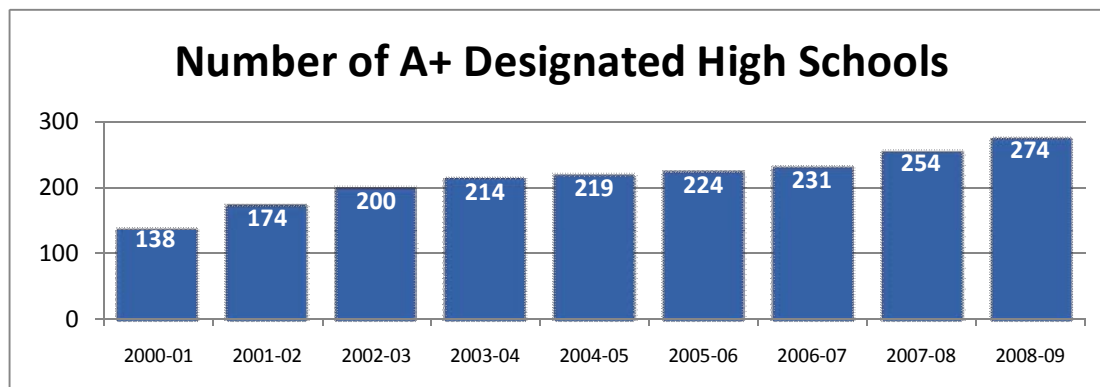
**History** – The A+ Schools Program was created in 1993 by state law as an incentive for improving Missouri’s high schools. The primary goal of the A+ Schools Program is to ensure that all students who graduate from Missouri public high schools are well prepared to pursue advanced education and/or employment.

**Student Eligibility** – Students who graduate from a designated A+ high school may qualify for a state-paid financial incentive to attend an eligible public community college or career/technical school in Missouri if the students successfully meet the following requirements:

- Enter into a written agreement with the high school prior to graduation.
- Attend a designated school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation.
- Graduate with an overall GPA of 2.5 points or higher on a 4-point scale.
- Have an overall attendance rate of at least 95 percent for grades 9-12.
- Perform 50 hours of district-supervised, unpaid tutoring or mentoring.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the use of drugs and alcohol.

(See A+ fact sheet and Web site for additional detail.)

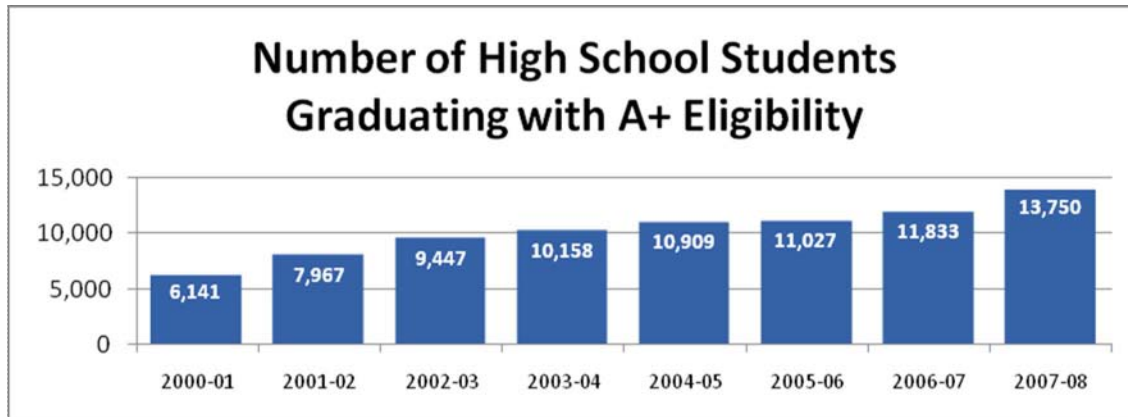
**A+ Designated Schools** – Missouri has designated 274 of its 570 public high schools as A+ participants. The number of participating schools has nearly doubled since the 2000-01 school year. Another 111 schools are currently in the process of seeking designation. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education projects the number of A+ designated schools will reach 315 in 2009-10.



Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

### A+ Eligible Students

While the number of schools with A+ designation has nearly doubled since the 2000-01 school year, the number of students graduating with A+ eligibility has more than doubled.



Source: Missouri Department of Higher Education

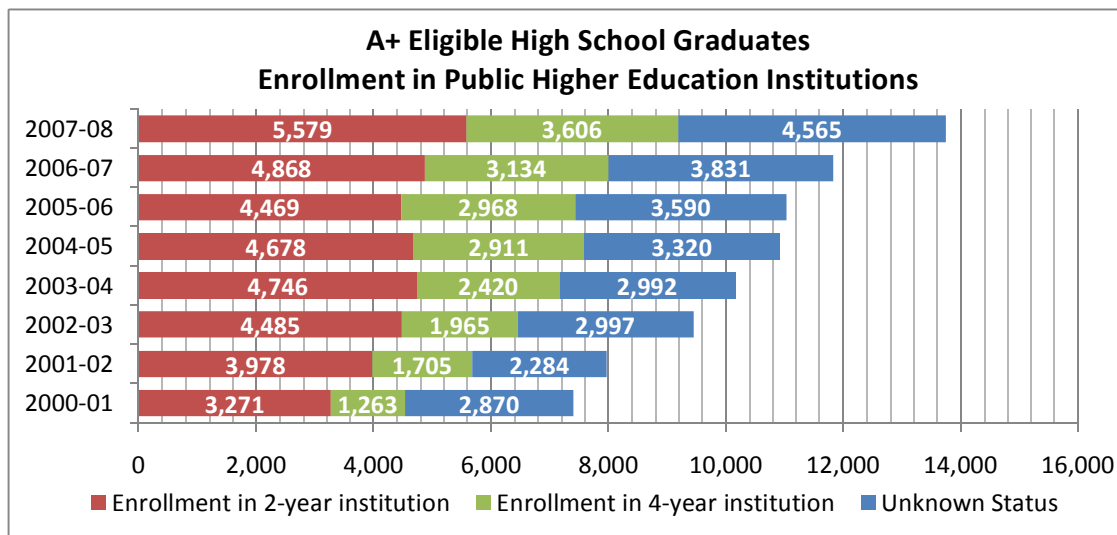
### Proportion of Missouri High School Students Graduating with A+ Eligibility

Last year, more than 1 out of 5 high school graduates were A+ eligible. The proportion is growing.

School Year	Total number of HS Graduates	Total number of A+ eligible HS Graduates	Percentage
2007-08	61,752	13,750	22.3%
2006-07	60,200	11,833	19.7%
2005-06	58,435	11,027	18.9%
2004-05	57,838	10,909	18.9%
2003-04	58,040	10,158	17.5%

Sources: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Missouri Department of Higher Education

### Transition to Postsecondary Education (Includes all A+ eligible high school graduates)



Source: Missouri Department of Higher Education, Initial Enrollment of A+ Eligible High School Graduates in Public Higher Education Institutions

**Funding** – The state appropriated \$25,336,524 to the A+ Schools Program for the 2009-10 school year; however, a recent \$1.9 million budget-reducing adjustment in the state tuition funding will be offset by increased federal funds and should have no impact on the number of students receiving A+ assistance, nor the amounts.

### **A+ Schools Program Effects on Student Achievement\***

**ACT** – From 1997 to 2007, non-A+ graduates enrolled in a two-year institution averaged an ACT score of 21.2; the average ACT score for their A+ counterparts was 23.3. Similarly, the average ACT score for non-A+ graduates enrolled in a four-year Missouri institution was 25.8, while their A+ counterparts averaged an ACT score of 28.8.

**GPA** – From 1997 to 2007, non-A+ graduates enrolled in a two-year institution averaged a first-year GPA of 2.37, while their A+ counterparts averaged a first-year GPA of 2.76. Similarly, non-A+ graduates enrolled in a four-year Missouri institution averaged a first-year GPA of 2.68, while their A+ counterparts earned an average first-year GPA of 2.87.

**Remedial Enrollment** – From 1997 to 2007, an average of 44%, 27% and 15% of non-A+ students enrolled in a two-year institution required remedial help in math, English and reading, respectively; the percentages for their A+ counterparts were 37%, 21% and 10%. At four-year Missouri institutions, an average of 10%, 6% and 2% of non-A+ graduates required remedial help in math, English and reading, respectively; the percentages for their A+ counterparts were 11%, 8% and 4%, respectively.

\*In these examples, we consider only students enrolled as first-time full-time degree-seeking students.

### *Graduating Class of 2002 – A+ Progress Report*

#### **College-Goers Initially Enrolling in Two-Year Institutions**

In 2002, a total of 7,967 students graduated from high school with A+ eligibility. Of those, 3,978 went on to a two-year institution and 1,705 enrolled in a four-year institution. Of the 3,978 A+ eligible students who initially enrolled in a two-year institution, 2,956 or 74 percent were first-time, full-time degree-seeking students. In checking the progress of those 2,956 first-time students six years later, 1,422 or 46.4 percent, had earned a college degree – 892 associate degrees and 480 bachelor's degree or beyond. In comparison, only 24.6 percent of their non-A+ eligible counterparts initially enrolling in two-year institutions achieved a college degree in the same time period.

Source: Missouri Department of Higher Education, Highest Degrees Earned from Public Institutions by A+ Eligible HS Graduates Who Initially Enrolled in 2-Year Institutions