

Title 5—DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Division 20—Division of Learning Services
Chapter 100—Office of Quality Schools

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

5 CSR 20-100.200 A+ Schools Program. The State Board of Education is amending subsection (1)(A); sections (2) and (6), and deleting subsection (2)(D) and (E); sections (3)-(5), and renumbering as needed.

PURPOSE: The changes in this amendment are to include nonpublic schools and to eliminate the requirements for receiving A+ compensation grant.

(1) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (department) Office of Quality Schools (QS) is authorized to establish procedures for the implementation of the A+ Schools Program including:

- (A) Public school district, **charter school, and nonpublic school** participation; and
- (B) Initial and continued designation as an A+ school.

(2) To participate in the A+ Schools Program, the chief administrator and school board of a public school district **or charter school** with secondary schools **or a nonpublic secondary school** must—

(A) Demonstrate a commitment to the established program goals. These goals are to ensure that all students:

- 1. Graduate from high school;
- 2. Complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and has identified learning expectations; and
- 3. Proceed from high school graduation to a community college, postsecondary career-technical school, or high wage job with work place skill development opportunities;

(B) Provide assurance that the *[district]* **eligible secondary school** will:

- 1. Establish measurable *[district-wide]* performance standards for the program;
- 2. Specify the knowledge, skills, and competencies in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course offered by the school, and any course of studies which will qualify students for graduation from the school;
- 3. Establish student performance standards, that lead to or qualify students for graduation, and meet or exceed the performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education (board);
- 4. Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects for students pursuing career-technical education or employment; and
- 5. Develop a partnership plan in cooperation and with the advice of local business persons, labor leaders, teachers, senior citizens, parents, and representatives of colleges and postsecondary career-technical schools, with the plan then approved by the local board of education. The plan shall specify:

A. A mechanism to receive updated information on an annual basis from those who developed the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program;

B. Procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students;

C. Counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon graduation from high school, address apprenticeship, and intern programs; and

D. Procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community to serve in the school;

(C) Designate a certificated employee to serve as the A+ Schools Program coordinator.

Nonpublic schools will designate a qualified employee to serve as the A+ Schools Program coordinator.

[(D) Make facilities and services available for adult literacy training; and

(E) Schools may request a designation two (2) years after the submission of the Notification of Commitment Form and when they have met the requirements of the program.]

[(3) High schools seeking designation must provide the department with notification of their intent to seek designation. The notification must contain—

(A) The name and address of the high school and school district applying for A+ status;

(B) The signature of the chief administrator and board president of the school district submitting the request for designation;

(C) Statement(s) of assurance that the school district will—

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the established goals of the A+ Schools Program;

2. Implement and annually update a partnership plan;

3. Establish a data and accountability system necessary to determine and report at least student demographics and enrollment, student completion and performance of coursework, student follow-up after leaving high school, program outcome, and student success relating to the implementation of the partnership plan, and student eligibility to receive student financial incentives available through the A+ Schools Program;

4. Comply with all reporting requirements of the department; and

5. Develop and implement a plan in compliance with all applicable state law and regulations to report students who drop out of school;

(D) Develop a plan of implementation which addresses each of the program requirements specified in this rule, including:

1. A listing of major objectives that include:

A. Curricular and instructional change;

B. Lower drop-out rates;

C. Student mastery of measurable learning expectations;

D. Successful transition from high school to continued education or employment;

E. A description of the process of the identification of and planned services for students considered to be at risk of educational failure and dropping out of school;

F. A plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the A+ Schools Program. Such evaluation should include but not be limited to:

(I) Annualized high school drop-out rate;

(II) Graduation rate;

(III) Number of students enrolled by grade level, kindergarten through grade twelve (K–12);

(IV) Number of high school graduates continuing their education at four- (4-) year colleges and universities, community colleges, or career-technical schools. This data shall be recorded separately by category of institution;

(V) Number of high school graduates entering the labor force;

(VI) Career education enrollment disaggregated by program/course and by location (local school district and area career-technical school); and

(VII) Career education follow-up/placement rates for local school district and career education programs in the area career-technical school; and

G. Name and description of each course offered at high school(s) and area career-technical school(s).

(4) The designated A+ Schools Program coordinator shall possess a valid Missouri certificate of license to teach in the secondary grade levels, an administrator certificate of license to teach, or a counselor certificate of license to teach.

(5) In preparation for designation, participating public high school districts must—

(A) Accomplish at least the following requirements:

1. Establish measurable district-wide performance standards for each of the three (3) established program goals and specific measures to determine attainment of each standard;
2. Demonstrate that developmental activities have taken place within the district or high school to specify the knowledge, skills/competencies, and mastery in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully complete all of the individual courses offered by the school, and in any course of studies which will qualify students for graduation from high school;
3. Demonstrate that procedures have been implemented within the district or school to eliminate the offering of a general track of courses that do not provide sufficient preparation for students upon graduation to successfully enter and progress in employment or postsecondary studies;
4. Establish a schedule of rigorous coursework with standards of competency;
5. Organize a local advisory committee of individuals that will meet annually to cooperatively develop and revise the school's partnership plan. Members should include:
 - A. Business person(s);
 - B. Labor leaders;
 - C. Parents;
 - D. Community college and postsecondary career-technical schools;
 - E. Senior citizens;
 - F. Teachers; and
 - G. Students;
6. Demonstrate that specific knowledge, skills, and competencies have been identified, in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully complete all individual courses offered by the school, and any course of studies which qualify students for graduation from the school and are a part of the school's curriculum;
7. Demonstrate that specific measurement and student mastery record-keeping procedures have been developed for each item of knowledge, skill, or competency identified for each individual course that the school offers; and
8. Show evidence that a reduction in the number of high school students dropping out of school has occurred.]

[(6)](3) Public **and nonpublic** high schools may be designated by the board as A+ Schools when they demonstrate that they have:

(A) Made significant progress or attained the three (3) established program goals of the A+ Schools Program; and

(B) Met the established program requirements of the A+ Schools Program.

AUTHORITY: sections 160.545 and 161.092, RSMo [Supp. 2011.] 2016. Original rule filed Nov. 10, 1993, effective June 6, 1994. For intervening history please consult the Code of State Regulations. Amended: Filed September 20, 2018

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment is estimated to cost state agencies or political subdivisions less than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, ATTN: Educational Support Services, Office of Quality Schools, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480, or by email to aplus@dese.mo.gov. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*