



## Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education A+ Scholarship Program General Information

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 high schools are well prepared to pursue advanced education and/or employment.

The A+ Scholarship Program provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.

### **High School Student Eligibility**

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Enter a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend a designated A+ high school for 2 years immediately prior to graduation.<sup>1</sup>
- Graduate with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- 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 (ACT Math Sub-score = 17)

<sup>1</sup>If one of your parents is a member of the military on active duty or has retired from the military and relocated to Missouri within one year of their retirement, you are exempt from this requirement. However, you must attend an A+ designated high school in the school year immediately preceding graduation and meet all the other high school eligibility requirements.

<sup>2</sup>High school policy may allow this criterion to be met up to 6 months beyond high school graduation in exceptional circumstances. Check with your high school's A+ coordinator to see if this is an option

### **How much can I receive?**

The scholarship will reimburse, within limits, the unpaid balance of your tuition and general fees after all available, non-loan federal financial assistance, such as the federal Pell grant, has been applied to your account.

### **How can I apply?**

You do not have to complete a paper A+ Scholarship application for the MDHE. Check with your community college or vocational/technical school to see what materials they require to confirm your A+ eligibility. In most cases your school will require at least an A+ seal/stamp on your high school transcript.

In addition, you must complete the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year. If you are attending a school 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.

For additional information, visit <http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>