

General Information

All forms can be obtained from the A+ Coordinator's Office. A+ Program meetings for disbursement of information are held in the fall and the spring. Separate A+ Program meetings are also held for seniors and their parents/guardians to help prepare for the numerous deadlines senior students face prior to graduation.

Freshmen and their parents are invited to a separate A+ Program meeting to explain all program requirements and benefits. Freshmen A+ sign-ups begin any time during the first semester of the Freshman year so that students may begin to establish attendance, citizenship, and GPA data. Freshmen may begin signing up for A+ Tutoring opportunities after the student, and their parents/guardians, have completed the A+ Program Participation and Citizenship forms and returned the forms to the A+ Coordinator.

Dixon High School students may enroll in the A+ Program anytime until the middle of their senior year. After that time it is impossible to complete the mandatory 50 hours of tutoring.

The Dixon High School uses the daily bulletin, our school web page – A+ (www.dixonr1.com), the Bulldog Alert text-caster, and our electronic message sign to distribute information and announce meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact the Dixon High School A+ Coordinator if you have questions or concerns regarding the A+ Program.

Please direct any questions concerning this program to the A+ Coordinator at Dixon High School, 1-573-759-7163, ext. 2, email address is tmccray@dixonr1.com



Dixon R-I Schools A+ Program Handbook (updated Summer 2015)



Planning for a successful future!

Principal: Brian Foerster
Counselor: Carol Kirk
A+ Coordinator: Trish McCray

Contact:

Dixon High School
300 E. High School Drive (physical)
106 W 4th St (mailing)
Dixon, MO 65459
www.dixonr1.com
573-759-7163, ext. #2

Dixon High School A+ Program Forward

The A+ Program Handbook has been written to provide students, parents, faculty, and staff with information concerning the various aspects of the A+ Schools Program, as it was established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. This legislation requires that the Dixon School District establish specific guidelines and policies in order to meet the stipulations of the program and administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner.

It is the responsibility of the district to follow these policies in order to ensure that the A+ Schools designation is maintained. Accurate certification of students is crucial to the integrity of the program as well as the A+ Schools designation. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to read and understand all of the guidelines and regulations before signing the agreement. Once the A+ agreement is filed, it becomes the responsibility of the student to continue to meet the requirements of the program, as outlined in this handbook in order to be certified as an A+ student upon graduation.

Benefits for Students

All students will benefit from the infusion of technology into the curriculum, the development of more effective instructional techniques, clearly stated learner expectations and graduation performance standards, more extensive career exploration and guidance activities, and courses with real-world focus.

Each student can be assured that he or she will be required to complete a rigorous academic program that is more closely geared to his or her individual needs and interests.

Students who meet the eligibility requirements, as outlined by the A+ Schools Program, may receive tuition and general fees to any Missouri public community college or technical school. The disbursement to post-secondary institutions is capped at 105% of an Associate's Degree. Any incomplete or failed courses will not be paid for by A+ Program funds. All funding is subject to legislative appropriation.

Maintaining Eligibility

A certified A+ student who has graduated from Dixon High School has a four-year window in which to take advantage of the financial incentives. A student who participates must:

- Enroll and attend on a full-time basis a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school.
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 grade scale while attending any post-secondary institution.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA for each year the student is enrolled in school on www.fafsa.gov

Payment to Post-secondary Institution

After graduation, the A+ Coordinator confirms that the student has met all A+ requirements and is eligible to receive the A+ financial incentives. An official A+ seal is placed on the final high school transcript to verify eligibility.

A list of all eligible students is sent to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This list remains on file for four years.

When a student enrolls full-time at an eligible post-secondary institution, the official high school transcript containing the A+ seal provides verification of eligibility for the A+ financial incentives. The institution will send a bill to the Department of Education for the cost of tuition, minus the amount of federal aid received, if any. All funding is subject to legislative appropriation.

Good Faith Effort to Secure Funding

A good faith effort is required by all parents/guardians of A+ Seniors to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.

- Parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA information must be sent to the college or technical school that the student wishes to attend.
- The FAFSA application form is available in the guidance office or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Parents/guardians of seniors are encouraged to apply as soon as possible but not before January 1st.

Tuition incentives will only be awarded to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and general fees after available federal post-secondary financial assistance funds have been applied to these costs. Fees are only those uniformly charged to all students. All funding is subject to legislative appropriation.

Monitoring of A+ Status

At the end of each semester, students who are participating in the A+ Schools Program will receive a letter reporting their progress in each of the required areas: grade point average, attendance, and academic tutoring/mentoring hours. Any questions or concerns about the information reported should be directed to the A+ Coordinator, 573-759-7163, ext. 2. If a student wishes to withdraw from the A+ Schools Program, a letter will be sent to the parents notifying them of the withdrawal. Progress letters will be terminated at this time.

The A+ Schools Program Goals

As outlined by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the primary goals of the A+ Schools Program are:

- 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 objectives.**
- 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.**

It is essential that every student graduate from high school with the skills and tools required to pursue whatever educational and career goals the student and his or her parents select. The A+ Schools Program will provide information to assist in making those decisions and will provide for the development of educational programs that more fully meet the needs of all Dixon High School students.

Student Eligibility

Students who plan to participate in the A+ Schools Program understand that:

- A.** Student financial incentives will be available for a period of four (4) years after high school graduation.
- B.** To be eligible, each student must enter into a written agreement with the school prior to high school graduation, and will:
 - Attend a designated A+ School for 3 consecutive years prior to graduation.
 - Graduate from high school with a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
 - Achieve at least a cumulative 95% attendance record for the 4 year period during high school (summer school doesn't affect this cumulative data).
 - Perform 50 hours of unpaid academic tutoring or mentoring in a school supervised setting.
 - Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.

Enrollment Requirements

In order to obtain financial incentives, the student must attend an A+ designated school for 3 consecutive years prior to graduation.

- The student must enroll at Dixon High School no later than 2 weeks after the beginning of the fall term of the student's sophomore year, unless transferring from a designated A+ school.
- Students and parents must complete and sign the A+ Participation and Citizenship Agreements.
- Students who are military dependents are exempt from the "3 consecutive years in an A+ school" requirement with proof of dependent status.

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes. Therefore, the student will develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. The cumulative attendance rate for 9th-12th grade must be at least 95%.

- The student's attendance information will come from the district's official attendance records. Summer school attendance does not count.
- 95% attendance is higher than the regular attendance policy for Dixon High School, this is separate from the ten (10) day per semester school attendance policy.
- Students who fall below the 95% cumulative mandate may submit an attendance appeal to the A+ Program Coordinator during the second semester of their senior year.

Citizenship Appeal

If a student violates the Student Code of Conduct, as stated in the Dixon High School Student Handbook, the parent/guardian will be notified that the student is "Out of Compliance" with the A+ school's good citizenship requirements. In the event that a student chooses to appeal, the following is required:

- Student completes an appeal form that is available in the A+ Coordinator's office.
- The completed form must be returned to the A+ Coordinator's office within 30 days of the "Out of Compliance" notification.
- The A+ Coordinator will then convene the A+ Review Committee which shall be composed of the high school principal, counselor, and at least one teacher.
- After the A+ Review Committee reaches a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify the parent/guardian by letter and notify the student personally.
- Any and all additional appeals will be conducted following policies set forth by the Dixon R-I Board of Education.



Attendance Appeals

Citizenship Requirement

Students enrolled in the A+ Program will follow the disciplinary code set forth in the Dixon High School Student Handbook, and will adhere to the following: maintain a record of good citizenship and refrain from the sale, possession, and usage of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. A student who violates this requirement will automatically be denied A+ Program incentives.

Certification of good citizenship will be based upon official disciplinary records maintained by the high school, as well as outside official legal documentation, as necessary. Please note the following:

- Three (3) or more disciplinary write-ups will result in an A+ Probation Notice sent to the parent/guardian and a meeting with the A+ Coordinator and Principal.
- Infractions of ISS and OSS will receive immediate parent notification and A+ Program probation for the remainder of the semester.
- A 2nd offense within the same semester will result in a meeting with the principal and a notice of A+ ineligibility given to student and mailed to the parent/guardian. Student has 30 days in which to submit an appeal.
- Drug and alcohol related offenses carry immediate dismissal from the A+ Program

Seniors in the A+ Program falling below the 95% cumulative hourly attendance rate will be given the opportunity to appeal in April of their senior year. A+ seniors may submit an attendance appeal by obtaining the appropriate paperwork from the A+ Coordinator. The appeal must be in writing and must be made during the second semester of the student's senior year. If the student is an early graduate (usually December/January of their senior year) the appeal must be made at least one week prior to the end of the semester in order to convene the Attendance Committee. A letter of appeal as well as valid documentation supporting the days being appealed must be submitted. Valid documentation regarding the days being appealed include:

- Hospitalization
- Chronic Medical Condition
- Family Emergency
- Accidents
- Funeral Leave

Students will obtain their official attendance records from the school secretary to file their appeal and will submit all paperwork to the A+ Coordinator in a timely manner by the date stipulated. After the Attendance Committee has met, reviewed the appeal, and made a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify the parents and student by letter. The letter will be placed in the student's A+ folder.

Tutoring/Mentoring Requirements

An A+ student must perform a minimum of 50 hours of unpaid academic tutoring/mentoring. Listed below are the A+ Schools guidelines for tutoring/mentoring:

- The A+ student and parent/guardian must sign the A+ Tutoring & Mentoring Agreement prior to tutoring.
- The A+ student must provide his/her own transportation and sign all appropriate paperwork for confidentiality, insurance, and grade-scale.
- The A+ tutor must attend tutor training sessions held by the A+ Coordinator before full-time tutoring can begin.

Tutoring/Mentoring Policies

- All tutoring must be pre-approved by the A+ Coordinator.
- All tutoring/mentoring must be school sponsored.
- An official log sheet must be signed by the school official in charge of the tutoring/mentoring activity.
- Tutoring/mentoring may be done during the school year or during summer school (when offered).
- The A+ senior must have all tutoring/mentoring hours completed no later than May 1st of their senior year.
- The A+ student is expected to be present at the agreed upon day and time for tutoring/mentoring.
- If an absence occurs, the A+ student is expected to notify the adult in charge of the A+ tutoring/mentoring activity. When possible, notify the instructor in advance.

Tutoring Opportunities

The following is a list of possible options that will count toward the fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring requirements of the A+ Schools Program:

- Assigned after-school tutoring under the supervision of a teacher at: Dixon Elementary, Dixon Middle, or Dixon High School, as available.
- Special Events: times and days vary, some evening and weekend hours are possible.
- Senior year tutoring course: can be placed into the 4 year scheduling plan and tutor for 1 class period per day at Dixon Elementary or Dixon Middle School. Tutor training and appropriate paperwork must be completed.
- Peer tutoring: as necessary in class, during work-time, and with instructor approval.
- Cadet Teaching Assignment: Future Teacher's of America (FTA) Cadet Teaching assignment in elementary and middle school classrooms twice yearly.

All tutor logs must be submitted quarterly for appropriate documentation. Logs will be filed into the student's A+ Program folder by A+ Coordinator.

Grade Point Average Requirement

To receive the A+ financial incentives, a student must graduate from an A+ designated high school with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale. Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, all A+ students must score Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I End of Course exam (EOC). Students may retake the Algebra I End of Course exam after participating in additional tutoring or coursework. A Proficient or Advanced EOC score in Geometry or Algebra II will be accepted as an acceptable accomplishment of the math criteria as well, an ACT Math Subscore of 17 is also acceptable.

Please note the following:

- The cumulative grade point average is for grades 9-12. GPA will not be rounded in any way.
- The student's official transcript will serve as evidence of grade point average for admission into a public community college or vocational/technical school.
- Algebra I EOC score will be noted on the semester checklist.