

**Title 6 – Department of Higher Education
Division 10 – Commissioner of Higher Education
Chapter 2 – Student Financial Assistance Programs**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-2.190 A+ Scholarship Program. The commissioner is amending subsection (3)(A).

PURPOSE: These amendments update the eligibility policy to reflect statutory revisions.

(3) Eligibility Policy.

(A) To qualify for A+ tuition reimbursement, an initial recipient must meet the following criteria:

1. Attend an A+ designated high school or high schools for at least three (3) years *[immediately]* prior to graduation **and graduate from an A+ designated high school**. Enrollment *[at all A+ designated high schools attended]* during the three (3) years *[period immediately prior to the student's graduation]* **in which the student was in attendance at one or more A+ designated high schools** must total a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the instructional days required by the high school from which the student graduates. Interruptions in enrollment cumulatively totaling no more than twenty percent (20%) of instructional days in the three (3) years *[period]* **in which the student was in attendance at one or more A+ designated high schools** may occur consecutively or intermittently;

2. Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of funding that could be applied to the A+ Scholarship reimbursement;

3. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;

4. Enter into a written agreement with the A+ designated high school prior to high school graduation;

5. Graduate from an A+ designated high school with an overall grade point average of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale, or the equivalent on another scale;

6. Have at least a ninety-five percent (95%) attendance record overall for grades nine through twelve (9–12);

7. Have performed fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to twenty-five percent (25%) may include job shadowing, prior to high school graduation, except—

A. When there are circumstances beyond a student's control, the high school may extend the time period for completing this requirement on a case-by-case basis, not to exceed six (6) months beyond high school graduation;

8. Beginning with the high school senior class of 2015, meet one (1) of the following indicators of college preparedness, unless the A+ school district has met all of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's requirements for waiver of the Algebra I end-of-course exam for the recipient:

A. Have achieved a score of proficient or advanced on the official Algebra I end-of-course exam, or a higher level DESE approved end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics; or

B. Meet other criteria established by the CBHE. The CBHE will develop these criteria in consultation with participating A+ institutions and A+ designated high schools and may revise these criteria annually;

9. Have maintained a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol while in grades nine through twelve (9–12). Student participation in the Constitution Project of Missouri may be included in a student’s record of good citizenship in accordance with the A+ designated high school’s policy;

10. Be admitted as a regular student, enroll in an eligible program, and attend on a full-time basis a participating institution, except that students in the following circumstances may be enrolled less than full time:

A. The student is enrolled in all of the available hours applicable to the student’s program of study in a given term;

B. The student is participating in a required internship; or

C. The student is enrolled in prerequisite courses that do not require full-time enrollment;

11. Not be enrolled or intend to use the award to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity;

12. Not have a criminal record preventing receipt of federal Title IV student financial aid;

13. Meet the institution’s definition of satisfactory academic progress as determined by the participating institution’s policies as applied to other students at the participating institution receiving assistance under federal Title IV student financial aid programs, with the exception of cumulative grade point average (CGPA). The student must achieve a minimum CGPA of two (2.0) on a four-point (4.0) scale, or the equivalent on another scale, at the end of the fall semester for semester-based programs, or at the end of the initial payment period for non-semester based programs. The calculation of CGPA shall be based on the participating institution’s policies as applied to other students in similar circumstances; and

14. For students that receive a positive net disbursement in a given term, maintain eligibility by meeting the following course completion standards. A course is considered complete if the student earns a standard grade for the course, including a failing grade but excluding a grade at withdrawal prior to completion:

A. Complete a minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours in the fall or spring semester, six (6) credit hours in the summer term, or the equivalent, for students enrolled full-time in an eligible credit hour program. Students unable to satisfy the statutory minimum requirements for full-time status under the federal Title IV student financial aid programs as a result of a disability as defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act must complete a minimum of six (6) credit hours, or the equivalent, in any term;

B. Complete a minimum of ninety (90) percent of the clock hours required for the federal payment period, for students enrolled full-time in an eligible clock hour program; or

C. Complete all of the hours in which the student is enrolled in a given term, for students enrolled less than full-time in accordance with subparagraphs (3)(A)10.A.–C. of this rule.

AUTHORITY: section 160.545, RSMo 2016 and Executive Order 10-16, dated January 29, 2010. Original rule filed Feb. 17, 2011, effective Oct. 30, 2011. Amended: Filed Dec. 13, 2012, effective June 30, 2013. Amended: Filed Sept. 15, 2014, effective March 30, 2015. Amended: Filed Feb. 16, 2016, effective July 30, 2016. Amended: Filed Sept. 14, 2016, effective March 30, 2017. Amended: filed January 29, 2019.*

**Original authority: 160.545, RSMo 1993, amended 2002, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016.*

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more 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 Missouri Department of Higher Education, P.O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469 or kelli.reed@dhe.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.*