

Emergency Rule

**Title 6—DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division 10—Commissioner of Higher Education and
Workforce Development
Chapter 2—Student Financial Assistance Program**

EMERGENCY AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-2.190 A+ Scholarship Program. The Department is amending section (3)(A)7.-8.

PURPOSE: This amendment modifies the eligibility requirements for high school seniors to receive an A+ scholarship award.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: This emergency amendment is necessary to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This emergency amendment is necessary to preserve a compelling governmental interest, in that this amendment will prevent an undue burden to high school seniors attempting to qualify for an A+ scholarship award during the pandemic. This emergency amendment modifies the eligibility criteria for qualifying for an A+ scholarship by reducing the required number of tutoring/mentoring hours and eliminating the required Algebra I test for those students unable to take the test when it was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. This emergency amendment is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the Missouri and United States Constitutions. The Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development believes this emergency amendment is fair to all interested persons and parties under the circumstances. Failure to enact this emergency rule amendment will result in current high school seniors being unable to obtain an A+ scholarship award due to circumstances created by the COVID-19 public health emergency and at no fault of their own. This emergency amendment was filed April 27, 2021, becomes effective May 12, 2021, and expires February 21, 2022.

(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 two (2) years prior to graduation and graduate from an A+ designated high school. Enrollment during the two (2) years in which the student was in attendance at one (1) 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 two (2) years in which the student was in attendance at one (1) 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; and

B. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, high school seniors graduating during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years must have performed at least twenty-five (25) hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring prior to high school graduation. For high school seniors graduating during the 2020-2021 academic year, up to fifty percent (50%) of the requirement can be met through job shadowing;

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 (DESE) requirements for waiver of the Algebra I end-of-course exam for the recipient, **or the student graduated during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years that were impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency:**

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 percent (90%) of the clock hours required for the federal payment period, for students enrolled full-time in an eligible clock hour program; or

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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 Supp. [2019]2020 and Executive Order 10-16, dated January 29, 2010. Original rule filed Feb. 17, 2011, effective Oct. 30, 2011. For intervening history, please Consult the **Code of State Regulations**. Emergency amendment filed April 27, 2021, effective May 12, 2021, expires Feb.21, 2022.*

PUBLIC COST: This emergency amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the time the emergency is effective.

PRIVATE COST: This emergency amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the time the emergency is effective.