

## **A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

The School District of Springfield R-XII encourages its students to further their education and training after they graduate from the district. For that reason, the district will participate in the state A+ Scholarship Program to provide students an opportunity to attend postsecondary education at a low cost. The district will follow the requirements as established by state law and regulation for the implementation and administration of its A+ Schools Program. The district shall designate an A+ Schools Program Coordinator at each A+ designated site, as required by law.

### **Program Goals**

The School District of Springfield R-XII has established the following goals and performance standards:

1. All students graduate from high school.
  - Springfield Public Schools will meet or exceed the state's expectations in the areas of attendance and graduation as outlined in the district's strategic plan.
  
2. All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations.
  - Measurable learner objectives are established and revised as necessary for each high school course.
  - Activities designed to promote mastery of measurable objectives are in place for each course.
  - Assessments with appropriate levels and systems for monitoring student achievement are in place.
  
3. All students proceed from high school graduation to college, postsecondary career-technical school or high-wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.
  - A comprehensive guidance program (K-12) is implemented in the district.
  - All 9th-12th grade students have a 4-year plan in place leading to postsecondary study or employment.
  - Students, along with their parents/guardians, annually review the 4-year plan.

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## **Citizenship Component**

An important component of the A+ Schools Program is the fostering of good citizenship in our district's students. A student demonstrates good citizenship by complying with building, district and state standards. Students have not demonstrated good citizenship if, while in grades nine through twelve, they have:

1. Pled guilty or *nolo contendere* (no contest) to, received a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended execution of sentence, for, agreed to a deferred prosecution for, or have been convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony.
2. Unlawfully used or possessed drugs and/or alcohol while in grades 9-12 as defined by district policy.

## **Participation Agreement, Discipline and Appeal**

All students wishing to participate in the A+ Schools Program must submit a completed A+ participation agreement. If the coordinator determines that a student who has submitted a participation agreement has violated the terms of that agreement or district policy policies or procedures regarding A+ participation, the coordinator will notify the student in writing and may put the student on warning, probation, out of compliance or expel the student from the program. The student or the student's parents/guardians may appeal expulsions, in accordance with written district procedures.

Any student who is notified that he or she is out of compliance with the district's or the state's program citizenship and attendance standards may request a review of his or her program status by preparing a written appeal, on the appropriate form, and filing it with the A+ office within ten calendar days after the date the student received notice that he or she was out of compliance. An appeal may be filed by any student who has been determined to be out of compliance. No appeals are allowed for grades in individual courses or grade point average. All appeals must be finalized before June 30 of the senior's graduation year.

An appeal team that generally consists of building and district leaders team will review all pertinent information and make a decision about the student's status in the program. The decision of the appeal team is final. The student and parent/guardians will be notified of the appeal conference. Once a final decision is made by the appeal team, a written notice of the decision will be mailed to the parent/guardians and student within five school days following the date of the appeal conference.