

LOGAN ROGERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

A+ STUDENT HANDBOOK

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History of the A+ Program

The A+ Schools program is a comprehensive school-improvement initiative established by Missouri's Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 as an incentive for improving Missouri's high schools. Logan Rogersville School District has been an A+ School since 1997.

A+ Overall Goals

The primary goal of A+ Schools is to assure that all students are well prepared to pursue advanced education and employment. The A+ Schools Program was designed with all students in mind. Three main goals of the program are as follows:

- ALL students will graduate from high school;
- ALL students will complete challenging coursework; and
- ALL students will proceed from high school to a high-wage job, college, vocational or technical school.

A+ Program Incentives

When students satisfy all A+ Program requirements the State of Missouri agrees to:

- Reimburse the cost of tuition for up to two years (as funds are available).
- Accept enrollment in any public community college or career/technical school in Missouri.
- Guarantee the incentives for a period of four years after the student graduates from high school.

Student Eligibility for A+

Students who graduate from a designated A+ high school may qualify for a state-paid financial incentive to attend any public community college or career/technical school in Missouri if they meet the following requirements.

- Completion of an A+ participation agreement including signature by the student and their parent and/or guardian.
- Completion of fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for other students.
- Maintain at least a 95% attendance record for all four (4) years of high school.
- Attend a designated A+ school for three (3) consecutive years immediately prior to high school graduation.
- Graduate from a designated A+ high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale or 6.875 on an 11 point scale.
- Make a documented good faith effort to first secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment (This requirement is satisfied by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 1 of their year of graduation).
- Maintain a record of good citizenship, including no violations involving the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs.
- Male students are required to register under the United States Military Selective Service Act and must be prepared to show proof of said registration.

Ongoing Eligibility: For a Student Pursuing Postgraduate Education

Once qualified for the State's financial incentive, students must satisfy the following criteria to remain eligible.

- Attend a Missouri public community college or career/technical school on a full time basis.
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Make a good faith effort each year to first secure all available federal financial aid by completing the FAFSA on an annual basis (deadline determined by postsecondary institution).

A+ Tutoring/Mentoring Requirement

A student is required to perform fifty (50) hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for other students.

Tutoring/mentoring must be school sponsored under the supervision of a Logan Rogersville R-VIII school district employee.

An official time sheet must be kept for all tutoring activities.

Each entry must be accompanied by a supervisor signature.

Students are expected to be present at the agreed-upon day and time for tutoring or mentoring.

If an absence must occur, the A+ student is responsible for contacting the attendance office and requesting that the message be relayed to the A+ supervisor. Significant absence and/or failure of notification may result in removal from the tutoring experience.

Tutoring/mentoring must be done during the regular school year or summer school.

Subject to availability A+ Tutoring/Mentoring options include:

- Summer school A+ tutoring
(Students may satisfy tutoring hours in a single summer school session.)
- After school (Tuesday) A+ tutoring-generally available October to April each school year
(Approximate time frame to complete A+ tutoring will be 2+ years.)
- During school A+ tutoring
(Seniors with adequate credit hours to meet LRHS's graduation requirements may tutor during a regular class period for one semester.)
Please Note: No credit is given for tutoring.

Tutoring/mentoring preference is given to seniors, juniors, sophomores and then freshmen. Basing preference on class standing ensures that our students are able to complete their tutoring/mentoring hours and maintain their A+ eligibility.

A+ Attendance Requirement

A student must maintain at least a 95% attendance record for all four (4) years of high school.

The cumulative attendance record for each student will be based upon the official school attendance record.

Attendance records will be maintained from the beginning of the student's freshman year until graduation.

Eligibility Requirement: Attend an A+ School Three Consecutive Years

To be eligible for the A+ Program students must be enrolled in the Logan Rogersville School District from the beginning of their sophomore year through the end of their senior year or have transferred from a *designated A+ School* to the Logan Rogersville School District.

A+ Programs Grade Point Average Requirement

The grade point requirement for the A+ Schools is based on a cumulative grade point average combining all four years of high school (9th through 12th grade).

The student's official high school transcript will provide documentation of their grade point average for the A+ Schools Program.

All A+ eligible students must earn at least a **2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale** or a **6.875 grade point average on an 11.0 scale**.

A+ Requirement: To Make Effort to Secure Funding

The student's parents are **required to complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**. The FAFSA information is required to be sent to the Missouri public community college or career/technical school that the student is planning to attend.

Parents are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as early as possible, but are not allowed to submit it before **January 1st of the year of the student's graduation**. At the latest it does have to be completed by **June 30th of the year of the student's graduation**. Please note that Missouri public community colleges or career/technical schools may require the FAFSA to be completed by a certain date.

The website's to obtain a PIN number and to complete the FAFSA are listed below:

PIN number for FAFSA: www.pin.ed.gov

FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov

The A+ Coordinator will check on a database whether a Logan Rogersville student has completed the FAFSA.

However, if the FAFSA is not filed, the student needs to be aware that the A+ financial incentives will not be paid on their behalf. Please note it is the student's responsibility to ensure they have completed and filed the FAFSA.

A+ Citizenship Guidelines

Participation in the A+ program is an honor and a unique privilege for Logan Rogersville High School students. The A+ Program's citizenship provision requires students to maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs.

To qualify for the A+ Program and the associated financial incentives, a student's behavior shall be in compliance with Board of Education policies, the Logan Rogersville High School guidelines on "Student Behavior and Discipline Policies" as outlined in the student handbook, the A+ Program guidelines, the Safe Schools Act (1996) and state and local regulations and laws.

Citizenship Eligibility

At the end of each quarter the cumulative citizenship record for each A+ student will be reviewed from the official disciplinary records at Logan Rogersville High School. If any student is deemed to have compromised the citizenship guidelines, the A+ Coordinator will be notified by the administration.

Student disciplinary records will be maintained throughout the high school years. *In School Suspensions* (ISS) and *Out of School Suspensions* (OSS) will accumulate over the four (4) years a student attends high school. Citizenship and/or disciplinary violations that may jeopardize a student's eligibility for the A+ Program include, but are not limited to, the following:

In School Suspensions (ISS)

Any A+ student who accumulates six (6) days *In School Suspension* will receive a written warning. An accumulation of six (6) additional days *of In School Suspension* (total of twelve days) will result in the student being placed on probation and receive written notification. An additional accumulation of three (3) days *of In School Suspension* (total of fifteen days) will result in immediate removal from the A+ Program.

Out of School Suspensions (OSS)

Any student who receives three (3) days of *Out of School Suspension* will be placed on probation and will receive a written notice. An additional accumulation of three (3) days *Out of School Suspension* (total of six days) will result in immediate removal from the A+ Program.

Automatic Ineligibility for the A+ Program

In compliance with regulations of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education A+ Schools Program, a student will be removed immediately from the A+ Schools Program and thus become ineligible for the financial incentives for any of the following:

Alcohol/Drug Abuse

- Violation of the Logan Rogersville School District Student Alcohol /Drug Abuse policy outlined in the *Board Policies (FILE: JFCH and LHCD)*.
- Formally charged with unlawful possession and/or selling of drugs, paraphernalia or alcohol.

Violation of Local, State or Federal Criminal Laws

- Conviction and/or guilty plea to a felony
- Criminal activity which is formally reported to the school by the juvenile officer as defined by the Safe Schools Act. Convictions include:
 - **First and second degree murder**
 - **Kidnapping**
 - **First and second degree assault**
 - **Forcible rape or sodomy**
 - **First degree burglary**
 - **Robbery**
 - **Distribution of drugs**
 - **Distribution of drugs to a minor**
 - **First degree arson**
 - **Voluntary and/or involuntary manslaughter**
 - **Sexual assault**
 - **Felonious restraint**
 - **Property damage, first degree**
 - **Possession of a weapon**
(Provisions of Chapter 571 Missouri revised statues)

Policy Regarding Warnings, Probation and Removal from the Program

When a student receives a warning, probation or removal from the program the following criteria is followed:

- Warning:** A written warning will be issued to the student. A copy of the written warning will be sent via mail to the parent and/or guardian.
- Probation:** A letter will be issued to the student placing the student on probation. In addition a copy of the letter will be sent via mail to the parent and/or guardian and will be followed up by a call from the A+ Coordinator to the parents.
- Removal from the Program:** The student and the parent and/or guardian will be notified via certified mail that the student has been removed from the A+ Program and will not be eligible to receive the A+ Program financial incentives.

A+ Appeal and Grievance Procedures for Attendance and Citizenship

Students who have lost their A+ Program eligibility due to attendance and/or citizenship issues may appeal to the A+ Appeals Committee. The A+ Appeals Committee for Attendance and Citizenship is comprised of the A+ Coordinator, administration and several faculty members. This Appeals Committee will meet once per year in April prior to the A+ Advisory Board meeting. All A+ appeals must be completed using the following process.

A+ Attendance Appeals

Students will be allowed one appeal prior to their graduation.

The A+ Attendance Appeals Form included in the Appendix of the manual should be used in filing an attendance appeal.

Students with specific health histories must make sure their medical documentation of chronic or long-term health related problems are on file with the school nurse.

For the appeal to be considered a student must provide the A+ Coordinator with **verifiable documentation** of hospitalization, death of an immediate family member, catastrophic illness, or serious accidents for the appeal to be considered.

All students' absences will be considered during the appeals process. Appeals will not be considered if students have absences due to truancy, skipping classes, personal or family trips, transportation problems or out of school suspension.

The A+ Schools Appeals Committee will review the appeal and render a decision in writing within five (5) school days of the appeal meeting. The A+ Coordinator is responsible for notifying the student and their parent and/or guardian regarding the decision.

Students have the right to further appeal utilizing the Grievance Procedures outlined in this manual.

A+ Citizenship Appeals

Students will be allowed one appeal prior to their graduation.

A student is required to fill out an A+ Citizenship Appeal Form included in the Appendix of the manual.

The student's entire disciplinary record will be taken into consideration during the appeals process. ***Appeals will not be considered if students have citizenship issues due to the unlawful use of alcohol or drugs.***

The A+ Schools Appeals Committee will review the appeal and render a decision in writing within five (5) school days of the appeal meeting. The A+ Coordinator is responsible for notifying the student and their parents and/or guardian regarding the decision.

Students have the right to further appeal utilizing the Grievance Procedures outlined in this manual.

A+ Grievance Procedure

In the event that an initial appeal is denied, students may elect to utilize the following grievance procedures. A grievance appeal must be submitted in writing within ten days of notification of a denied appeal.

The first step would be to submit a grievance appeal to the Principal of Logan Rogersville High School. The Principal will respond in writing within five (5) school days of the submitted grievance appeal.

If the grievance appeal is denied the next step would be to submit the grievance appeal in writing within ten (10) days of the denied appeal to the Superintendent's office. The Superintendent will respond in writing within five (5) school days of the submitted grievance appeal.

If the appeal is denied by the Superintendent's office, the final step in the grievance procedure is to submit in writing a grievance appeal within ten (10) days to the Logan Rogersville School Board. This appeal will be heard at their monthly school board meetings and they will respond in writing to the student and parent and/or guardian within five (5) school days after their monthly school board meeting.

Logan Rogersville High School A+ Attendance Appeal Form

Date _____

Student Name _____

Name of Parent _____

and/or Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Please explain reason for exceeding absence limit. Examples would include hospitalization, extended illness, accident and/or death in the immediate family. Attach an additional page if necessary.

In the space provided below, please indicate the absence dates and excuse of absence. (Please attach all documentation to verify absences).

Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
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Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____
Absence Date:	_____	Excuse	_____

Total Number of High School Absences: _____ School Year: 200_ 200_ 200_ 200_

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 For Office Use Only

Cumulative GPA _____

Tutoring Hours _____

Date of Appeal Hearing: _____

Committee Decision: Appeal Granted _____ Appeal Denied _____

Written Notification mailed on: _____

Logan Rogersville High School A+ Citizenship Appeal Form

Date _____

Student Name _____

Name of Parent and/or Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Please explain reason for loss of citizenship-
In the space(s) provided below, please indicate the ISS or OSS dates and the reason for the suspension/loss of citizenship. If you need additional space please use the back of this form.

- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____
- Suspension Date(s): _____ Reason _____

On the back of this form please document the reason that you feel the A+ Appeal Committee should reinstate you in the A+ Program. Please note: if ISS or OSS was not a factor in you becoming ineligible for the A+ Program, please use the back of this form to list reason for ineligibility.

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For Office Use Only

Cumulative GPA _____ Tutoring Hours _____

Date of Appeal Hearing: _____
 Committee Decision: Appeal Granted _____ Appeal Denied _____

Written Notification mailed on: _____