

Nerinx Hall

A+ Schools Program Student/Parent Manual

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Purpose of the Manual

The purpose to this manual is to provide an understanding of the A+ Schools Program established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. The program has been available to qualifying public school districts since 1993; it was made available to private schools in Missouri in the summer of 2016. Nerinx Hall is an A+ designated school.

The A+ Schools Program mobilizes an intensive partnership among high schools, community colleges, vocational/technical schools, students, teachers, parents, labor, businesses, and communities to give students the motivation, skills, and knowledge to graduate from high school. It creates an innovative and well-designed path to high skill, high wage jobs.

There are aspects of the A+ Schools Program that require Nerinx Hall to establish guidelines and policies. It is the responsibility of the A+ Coordinator and all employees to administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner.

It is the responsibility of the student/parent to be aware of the requirements of the program and the status of the student towards successful A+ certification.

Required documentation must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator by the 2nd Friday of May of the student's senior year.

It is the responsibility of the student to continue to meet the requirements necessary to be certified as an A+ student after graduation.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this manual is correct at the time of printing; however, changes to this program may occur. Questions concerning this program should be directed to the A+ Coordinator.

GOALS OF THE A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- All students will complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations.
- All students will proceed from high school graduation to college.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Graduates of Nerinx Hall who are certified as A+ students may be eligible for the following:

- Financial incentives to a state community college or other participating institution
- Some traditional four-year institutions offer additional scholarships to A+ eligible students
- Please see the list of known participating institutions at the end of this document

Financial incentives will be made available after the student has made a good-faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. This requirement is met by submitting a “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA).

Students may receive this incentive for TWO years. A student must be considered a FULL-TIME student by the post-secondary institution. Students must maintain a 2.5 G.P.A. or higher (on a 4.0 scale) at the institution. Students must complete the two years of full-time post-secondary enrollment within FOUR years of graduating from Nerinx Hall High School.

The A+ program may provide these educational incentives: 1) provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature or 2) subject to state funding approval. Funding is not the responsibility of Nerinx Hall.

A+ eligible students may be eligible for up to six (6) credits at a Missouri community college the summer between high school graduation and the start of same calendar year Fall semester, even if continuing at a non-participating four-year college.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The first step of participation in the A+ Schools Program is the signing of the A+ Schools Participation Agreement by the student, parent, advisor (if available), and A+ Schools Coordinator.

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program, a student must be certified as an A+ student by Nerinx Hall High School. To achieve this certification, a student must:

- Sign an A+ Schools Participation Agreement
- Attend an A+ designated school for the three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation (exception for classes of 2018 and 2019 as we transition into the Program)
- Graduate with at least an unweighted 2.5 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate with a 95% attendance record
- Complete 50 hours of unpaid one-on-one tutoring or mentoring other students
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the illegal use and/or possession of drugs, alcohol, and/or related paraphernalia
- Must have achieved an ACT Math score of at least 15-17 with corresponding G.P.A. (see chart)

ACT Math Score		High School Non-Weighted GPA
17	and	2.5 or greater
16	and	2.8 or greater
15	and	3.0 or greater

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

School enrollment guidelines for the A+ Schools Program are:

- The student must enroll at Nerinx Hall High School no later than September 30th of the student's sophomore year.
 - Exception: Transfer to Nerinx Hall from another A+ designated school MAY be honored.
- If a student withdraws or transfers from Nerinx Hall High School after the beginning of their sophomore year, the student will NOT be considered eligible for the A+ Schools Program, even if that student re-enrolls at Nerinx Hall.
 - Exception: Transfer from Nerinx Hall to another A+ designated school MAY be honored.

GRADE POINT REQUIREMENT

To meet eligibility for the grade point average (G.P.A.) requirement, the student must:

- Graduate with a cumulative grade point average of unweighted 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- The cumulative grade point average is for all four years.
- The student's official transcript will serve as evidence of grade point average for admission into a state community college or other participating institution.
- Weighted grades are given in certain advanced and honors classes and are based on a 4.0 scale. The grade point average will be adjusted to put all grades on 4.0 scale, and only this average will be used to determine whether the student has met the 2.5 requirement.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

To meet eligibility for the attendance requirement, the following guidelines are in place:

- Graduate with a cumulative 95% attendance rate.
- Cumulative attendance information used by the A+ Coordinator will come from the official attendance records kept by Nerinx Hall.
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Schools Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check attendance records to verify compliance with this requirement.
- If the absence counts against the school's Average Daily Attendance (ADA), it counts against A+ attendance. The following are among the reasons that will not be excused for A+ attendance: suspensions, vacations, college visits, doctor appointments, transportation problems.

TUTORING/MENTORING REQUIREMENT

To meet eligibility for the tutoring/mentoring requirement, the student must:

- Perform 50 hours of unpaid one-on-one academic tutoring or mentoring.
- Tutoring hours are documented through the Service Learning Department on X2VOL.com

TUTORING/MENTORING GUIDELINES

1. Tutoring is defined as academic support of a student the same age or younger. Mentoring is defined as guiding, advising, or supporting with consistency a mentee the same age or younger.
2. When at all possible, Nerinx Hall encourages students to complete the fifty (50) hours of tutoring/mentoring required by the A+ Program concurrently with service hours completed as part of the Service Program required for graduation.
3. The Service Learning Program states that students must meet their service requirement by completing at least fifteen (15) hours during their freshman year, twenty (20) hours their sophomore year, twenty-five (25) hours during their junior year, and thirty (30) hours their senior year with a total of ninety (90) hours being completed before graduation.
4. Nerinx Hall strongly recommends that students achieve A+ eligible tutoring/mentoring hours while completing both their freshman and sophomore Service Program requirements. In order for the Service Immersion experiences to count toward the A+ Program, the student must choose a site that meets the tutoring and mentoring qualifications.
5. Tutoring/mentoring must be approved by the Director of Service Learning before beginning.
6. Mentoring must be done with students of similar age or younger. Hours may not be considered for eligibility if mentee is older than the mentor.
7. Nerinx Hall discipline code is in effect at the tutoring/mentoring site. Failure to maintain this code will likely result in disqualification of A+ eligibility as a violation of the Citizenship requirement.
8. Tutoring/Mentoring hours must be documented using the X2VOL.
9. Students must have updated X2VOL with all completed hours by April 6th of their senior year in order to be considered for A+ Eligibility.

Tutoring and/or Mentoring Placement Possibilities*

1. Summer school program with Nerinx Hall or another accredited High School or elementary/middle school
2. School approved tutoring at Nerinx Hall
3. National Honor Society tutoring
4. Educational Facilities
5. People Living with Disabilities (younger adolescents or children only)
6. Shelter and Hospitality (younger adolescents and children only)
7. St. Louis Special School District
8. Child Care Facilities

*This list is not exclusive. Other sites *may* be approved.

SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and a privilege for Nerinx Hall students. A+ students are required to be good citizens. To meet eligibility for the citizenship requirement, the following guidelines are in place:

- An A+ student will not sell, possess, or use a controlled substance and/or related paraphernalia as defined by law, including alcohol, unless prescribed by a licensed physician. **The prohibition applies at all times, whether on or away from school property.**
- If a student pleads guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) to, receives a suspended execution of sentence form or has been convicted of a felony, he/she would immediately be disqualified from the A+ Schools Program.
- Citizenship certification will be based on the Student Discipline Code of Nerinx Hall. All students are expected to comply with school and district policies and regulations.
- Accumulation of OTM Marks will be considered.
- Student and parent signatures on the A+ Schools Participation Agreement allows the A+ Coordinator to check discipline records to verify compliance with this requirement.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS

The A+ Schools Program requires a parent(s) to make a good faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. **Students who do not submit the FAFSA form will not be able to access A+ funds at the post-secondary level.** To meet this requirement, the following guidelines are in place:

- Parents must apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA information must be sent to the state community college or school that the student is planning to attend.
- Parents need to apply as early as possible of the year of the student's graduation.

Students should be sure to list the community college or school they plan to attend on the FAFSA. Students may list up to six schools on the FAFSA. Failing to do so causes unnecessary delays.

Students using the A+ financial incentives for the summer immediately following graduation must contact the school's A+ Coordinator as soon as possible during the senior year.

The FAFSA application form is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FORM AVAILABILITY

A+ forms, applications and other information and/or materials may be obtained through the A+ Coordinator's office.

A+ WAIVER PROCESS

One of the requirements of the A+ Schools Program is a 95% attendance rate at the time of graduation. Students and parents are expected to monitor attendance entries in the Powerschool student information system. A request for a waiver of certain missed days must be made to the A+ Coordinator in writing within ten (10) days receipt of the absence. All requests must be supported by official documentation:

<u>Reasons for Absence</u>	<u>Documentation</u>
Hospitalization due to serious accident or illness	Doctor/Hospital Letter
Serious accident or illness	Doctor Letter

This process is not to be used by graduated seniors. Graduated seniors are to follow the appeals procedure.

A+ Appeals Process

A student and parent(s) have the right to appeal when they have been informed that the student is ineligible for the A+ financial incentive due to the failure to meet the attendance and school citizenship requirements of the A+ Schools Program. In case of appeal, a student and/or parent must notify the A+ Coordinator, in writing with the necessary documentation, no later than ten (10) days from the end of the school year.

The Appeals Committee shall read the appeal and return its decision to the student/parents.

The Appeals Committee shall be made up of:

- A+ Coordinator
- School Principal or Assistant Principal
- Appropriate Counselor

Scholarships Available to A+ Schools

The A+ Schools Program is funded through the State of Missouri for Missouri community colleges and vocational/technical schools. However, some 4-year colleges in Missouri (and surrounding areas) are offering their own A+ scholarships. These scholarships are determined by the colleges themselves and may or may not be offered at any time. Each school has specific criteria for being awarded these scholarships, whether they are renewable, and what must be done in order to be eligible. The criteria are in addition to the criteria set forth by the A+ Incentive Program.

CHECK WITH THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE AT 4-YEAR COLLEGES AND ASK IF THEY OFFER ANY INCENTIVES FOR A+ STUDENTS AND, IF SO, WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS ARE.

Currently there are known incentives at the following institutions. Contact the financial aid office at each institution to find out specific information.

Participating Institutions

Avila University
Kansas City, MO
816-501-3600

Hannibal LaGrange
Hannibal, MO
573-629-3279

Columbia College
Columbia, MO
800-231-2391

Hickey College
St. Louis, MO
314-434-2212

Culver-Stockton College
Canton, MO
800-537-1883

Iowa Wesleyan
Mt. Pleasant, IA
319-385-6242

Evangel University
Spring MO
800-382-6435

Lincoln University
Jefferson City, MO
573-681-5871

Fontbonne University
St. Louis, MO
314-889-1492

Lindenwood University
St. Charles, MO
636-949-4949

Missouri State University
Springfield, MO
800-283-4243

Missouri Southern State
University
Joplin, MO
417-625-9399
Missouri Valley College
Marshall, MO
660-831-4171

Missouri Western College
Saint Joseph, MO
816-271-4266

Northwest Missouri State
University
Maryville, MO
800-633-1175

Park University
Parkville, MO
816-584-6290

St. Louis Community Colleges
www.stlcc.cc.mo.us
STLCC at Florissant Valley
3400 Persahl Road
St. Louis, MO 63135
314-595-4244

STLCC at Forest Park
5600 Oakland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

STLCC at Meramec
11333 Big Bend Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63112
314-984-7601

STLCC at Wildwood
2645 Generations Drive
Wildwood, MO 63040
636-422-2000

State Fair Community College
3201 West 16th Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
660-530-5800
www.sfcc.cc.mo.us

Southeast MO State University
Cape Girardeau, MO
573-651-2590

Southwest MO State University –
West Plains
128 Garfield
West Plains, MO 65775
417-255-7980
www.wp.smsu.edu

Stephens College
Columbia, MO
800-876-7207

Three Rivers Community College
2080 Three Rivers Blvd.
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
573-840-9175
www.trcc.edu

Truman State University
Kirksville, MO
800-892-7792

University of Missouri Kansas
City
Kansas City, MO
816-235-1154 or 816-235-6783

Webster University
Webster Groves, MO
314-968-6992

Westminster College
Fulton, MO
800-888-9266

William Woods University
Fulton, MO
800-995-3159

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