

North Nodaway High School



A+ Student Handbook

Updated: Spring 2026 BOE Approval: 5-20-26

Making a Good Faith Effort

A+ participants are required to make a good faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. The following steps must be taken to show this good faith effort:

- Parents must complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA summary report must be sent to the Missouri community college or public vocational/technical school that the student is planning to attend.
- The FAFSA applications are available on the FAFSA website (<https://studentaid.gov/>) typically in October of each year. Parents are encouraged to apply as early as possible, but may not before the applications open or before a student starts their senior year.

A+ financial incentives will be awarded to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and fees after available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds have been applied to these costs.

Measuring and Certification of A+ Students

Grade Point Requirement

The A+ student must graduate from high school with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. **The cumulative non-weighted GPA is applicable to all four years of a student's enrollment in high school.** Parents should note that since North Nodaway uses a weighted grading system, the GPA utilized for A+ purposes will be figured differently than that used to determine class rank. The official transcript will document and certify that the GPA requirement has been met. The GPA must be 2.5 or above; 2.499 would not allow the student to be certified.

Monitoring/Notification of A+ Status

At the end of each semester, students who are participating in the A+ Program will receive a letter reporting their progress in each of the required areas. Any questions or concerns about the information reported should be directed to the A+ Coordinator within 15 business days of notification.

At the end of each school year, the A+ Coordinator will review all records of A+ participants, and the names of eligible students will be submitted to the high school principal and school counselor for official certification prior to graduation. The A+ Coordinator will review all records of A+ students, and names and social security numbers of eligible students will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education after graduation.

Selective Service

Effective August 28, 1999, all individuals required to register under the United States Military Selective Service Act (all males age 18), must show proof of registration to be eligible for state-supported scholarships, programs for financial assistance for postsecondary education or loans insured by state agency. This student eligibility requirement is authorized pursuant to MO. Rev. Statue 105.1210, 105, 1213 and 105.1216 (2000).

Becoming A+ Eligible

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Program, a student must be certified by North Nodaway High School. As the official representative of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the State of Missouri, the A+ Coordinator has the responsibility to certify NNHS graduates if they have met the criteria of certification. The high school principal will verify all qualifications and documentation. To be certified as an A+ participant, an individual must complete the following requirements by the date of graduation:

- ◆ Sign an A+ Program Participation Agreement;
- ◆ Attend an A+ designated school for three consecutive years prior to graduation;
- ◆ Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA during high school (based on a 4.0 scale);
- ◆ Hold a 95% attendance average for four years;
- ◆ Perform 50 hours of unpaid, approved, academic tutoring or mentoring for younger students;
- ◆ Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol;
- ◆ Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment; and
- ◆ Register with Selective Service if applicable
- ◆ Fulfill the Algebra I EOC requirement or alternate math assessment criteria

A+ Participation

An A+ Program Participation Agreement must be completed with all the appropriate signatures, and on file in the A+ office. The agreement simply states that the student and parents are aware of the A+ Program requirements and incentives. NOTE: Signing an A+ Participation Agreement in no way obligates the students to adhere to the A+ guidelines, but is simply a necessary step if they choose to participate.

Enrolling in an A+ School

If a student withdraws from NNHS or transfers to a non A+ school after the beginning of their sophomore year, the student will not be considered eligible for the A+ Program.

If a student transfers to NNHS after the beginning of their sophomore year, the student may only participate in the program if the school from which the student transferred was a designated A+ school.

Maintaining the A+ GPA

The student must graduate from high school with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. **The cumulative unweighted GPA is applicable to all four years of a student's enrollment in high school.** Parents should note that since North Nodaway uses a weighted grading system, the GPA utilized for A+ purpose will be computed differently than that used to determine class rank. The official transcript will document and certify that the GPA requirement has been met. The GPA must be 2.5; 2.499 would not allow the student to be certified.

Post-Secondary Student Incentives and How to Keep Them

Qualified A+ graduates will be eligible to receive:

Tuition to attend any Missouri public community college, vocational or technical college for two years. Funding for these tuition incentives is entirely dependent on appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

- ◆ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms must be on file with the college by deadlines set by the college. To meet those deadlines, parents should have FAFSA applications complete by April 1. Parents will file the FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ◆ FAFSA forms must be filed every year.
- ◆ A+ tuition incentives will only be made available to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition after available federal financial aid funds have been applied to those costs.
- ◆ Private scholarships will not affect eligibility for A+, nor will they reduce the state's responsibility to a college or tech. school.
- ◆ Students must successfully complete 12 college credit hours per semester (6 hours during the summer) and maintain a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale while enrolled in postsecondary training to be eligible to receive A+ funds for two years (including summer for a total of 6 semesters).
- ◆ Graduates have four years of A+ eligibility to complete their six semesters of studies at a community college or public vocational/technical school.
- ◆ Students must adhere to each college's deadlines. Failure to do so may result in A+ incentives not being available for a student.
- ◆ Financial need is NOT a factor in determining A+ eligibility.

Meeting the A+ Algebra I EOC Requirement

For meeting this requirement, the A+ student must score advanced or proficient on Algebra I EOC test or:

They may establish eligibility by achieving a combined Pre-ACT or ACT math subscore and high school GPA in accordance with the following scale.

Pre-ACT or ACT Math Score	And	High School GPA
17 or greater	And	2.5 or greater
16	And	2.8 or greater
15	And	3.0 or greater

EOC Advanced Testing & EOC Retesting

- A Student may retake the Algebra I EOC for the sole purpose of passing this requirement.
- This can also be met by scoring advanced or proficient on the Geometry or Algebra II EOC tests.
- If a student takes the same EOC assessment in the same accountability year (Summer/Fall/Spring), the last score is automatically kept for accountability purposes. LEAs do not need to appeal to remove previous scores.
- If the student takes the same EOC assessment in different accountability years, the LEA must submit an appeal to remove the current year score. If the LEA does not appeal, all scores will be used for accountability purposes.
- A+ appeals are due by May 30 of the current school year.
- For additional guidance of alternative options to the use of the Algebra I EOC assessment score, please visit the website for the Department of Higher Education Workforce Development (MDHEWD).

Meeting the A+ Attendance Requirement

To be eligible for A+ Program financial incentives a student must have at least a 95% cumulative attendance record during his/her four years of high school. This allows the student approximately 8 days of absence each year. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes. Therefore, the student will acquire the habits of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility. A student who does not meet the 95% attendance requirement will not be eligible for the A+ financial incentive. The following attendance guidelines are required of all students participating in the A+ Program:

- ◆ A cumulative attendance record will be kept from the beginning of the A+ student's high school career until graduation.
- ◆ The high school office will keep the official record-of-attendance. Students attending Northwest Missouri Technical School will have their attendance reported daily and their records maintained in the high school office.
- ◆ Each semester parents, guardians and students will be provided information that includes the student's attendance record.

The A+ Program does not necessarily excuse NNHS excused absences. A+ attendance guidelines differ from the regular school attendance rules. A doctor's note for an excused absence does NOT qualify a student for an A+ attendance waiver. A+ attendance waivers are for serious, long-term absences, not the average cold or flu.

A+ participants who receive notification of unacceptable attendance through semester reports will have 15 business days from the date of the notification to file a written appeal with the A+ Coordinator. If an appeal is NOT filed within 15 days of notification, a waiver for days missed will not be considered. A+ Attendance Waiver forms are available in the high school office or from the A+ Coordinator.

Absences that occur because of school-sponsored activities are not counted against attendance. Attendance waivers would most often be granted for (but not necessarily limited to) long-term illnesses, hospitalizations, granted homebound instruction, and treatment for chronic health problems. Attendance waivers would not usually be granted for doctor/dentist visits, court dates, and funerals to name a few.

NO STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A WAIVER IF ABSENCES ARE DUE TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ Ordinary colds, flu or similar short-term illness
- ◆ Truancy

- ◆ Skipping classes
- ◆ Personal/family vacations
- ◆ Transportation problems (except when riding the school bus)
- ◆ Suspension from school
- ◆ Employment or work purposes

It is not possible to list every situation in this handbook. If you have attendance questions, please contact the A+ Coordinator. All attendance waiver requests will be considered and decided on a case-by-case basis by the A+ Appeals Committee.

Meeting the A+ Tutoring Requirement

The A+ Program requires that students complete 50 hours of academic tutoring to younger students. Before beginning this requirement for A+ certification, a student must have a signed A+ Participation Agreement on file in the A+ Coordinator's office.

The following guidelines are to be used for all tutoring experiences:

- ◆ The A+ Coordinator must approve all tutoring activities. Most approved activities will take place during the school day, and will typically involve activities such as listening to elementary students read, helping them practice their spelling words, math facts, etc.
- ◆ To complete the 50 hours requirement, A+ students will have opportunities such as: daily study hall intervention, study skills class tutoring, and other school events that involve tutoring or mentoring.
- ◆ All tutoring must be done on the school premises under the supervision of a classroom teacher or other certified personnel.
- ◆ Students are expected to behave responsibly while tutoring. This includes notifying the tutoring supervisor before absences when possible. It is important to the success of the programs involved that A+ participants remain dedicated to their responsibility.
- ◆ Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, and/or dismissal from the A+ Program.
- ◆ **The student may receive NO financial compensation for A+ tutoring.**

Citizenship Requirement **Being an A+ Citizen**

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and a unique privilege for North Nodaway High School students. Students who participate in the program are expected to conform to a higher standard of conduct than is applicable to non-participants. Students pursuing the A+ Incentive must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use, possession, and

distribution of drugs and alcohol.

Certification of good citizenship is based on the official discipline record maintained in the administrative offices of North Nodaway High School. Consequences for infractions of the discipline code are assigned by the high school principal, and that administrator is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the student's discipline record.

A+ Good Citizenship Determination

The North Nodaway School District will use a point system to determine Good Citizenship status. All students begin with zero points when entering high school. Throughout high school they may accumulate points based on inappropriate or unacceptable behavior. The accumulation of 24 points or more at any time during enrollment results in revocation of A+ status. This is a retroactive process and applies to any A+ students moving into the district.

Disciplinary actions and resulting points are as follows:

First detention each school year – 0 pts

Second and each subsequent detention – 1 pt each

ISS – 3 pts per day

OSS – 4 pts per day

- 1st offense of OSS → student will be placed on probation
- 2nd offense of OSS → student will be dismissed from program

A student will be immediately removed from the program for drugs/alcohol/substance abuse, conviction of a felony, or conviction of violations of Safe Schools Act

A+ participants who receive semester notification of immediate removal will have 15 business days from the date of the notification to file an appeal with the A+ Coordinator. The A+ Review Committee will consider and decide appeals on a case-by-case basis. If an appeal is NOT filed within 15 days of notification, the appeal will not be considered. A+ Citizenship Appeal forms are available in the high school office or from the A+ Coordinator.

Unlawful Use of Drugs and Alcohol

An A+ participant will not possess, sell, or use any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined by law and stated in the North Nodaway High School Student Handbook. For purposes of this rule, the term “drug” includes any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage, illegally possessed prescription drug, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or item which by markings or by representations made, is represented to be a drug. The use of prescription medicine is allowed

only to the extent authorized by school district policy. Students and parents are responsible for understanding and following these guidelines.

The following offenses will result in immediate removal from the A+ Program:

- ◆ Possession, use, sale, or transfer of alcohol or drugs
- ◆ Possession of drug paraphernalia

Criminal Activity

Criminal activities, as defined by the Safe Schools Act, will also result in the **immediate removal from the A+ Program** and include:

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| ◆ First and second degree murder | First degree arson |
| ◆ Kidnapping | Voluntary/involuntary manslaughter |
| ◆ First and second degree assault | Sexual assault |
| ◆ First and second degree burglary | Felonious restraint |
| ◆ Robbery | Property damage |
| ◆ Distribution of drugs | Intimidation of school staff |
| ◆ Distribution of drugs to minors | Physical threat to staff |
| ◆ Assault on a student | Expulsion from school |
| ◆ False fire alarm/bomb threats and misuse of emergency equipment | |
| ◆ Possession of a weapon (Under provisions of Chapter 571 Mo. Rev. Statutes) | |

A+ Attendance/Citizenship Review Process

The A+ Staff Advisory Committee will review and decide all attendance/citizenship appeals. The committee will be comprised of the following:

- ◆ High School Counselor
- ◆ High School Principal
- ◆ Three High School Teachers
- ◆ A+ Coordinator

The A+ Coordinator will act as a facilitator and a non-voting member of the A+ Staff Advisory Committee. After the Staff Advisory Committee reaches a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify parents in writing. Any and all additional appeals will be conducted according to the policies set by the Board of Education.

Purpose of the **A+ Program Student Handbook**

In an effort to enhance educational opportunities for high school students, the Missouri General Assembly enacted the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. Among several reforms included in this legislation was the establishment of the A+ Schools Program. The purpose of this handbook is to provide a clear understanding of the various aspects of the A+ Program. There are many guidelines established by the law that North Nodaway High School must implement and follow. These policies are explained in this handbook.

In May 2009, North Nodaway High School submitted the required notification to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), indicating its intent to pursue designation by DESE, as an A+ high school. By the end of the 2011-2012, North Nodaway completed the numerous steps necessary to earn the A+ designation. Upon receiving designation, eligible students graduating from North Nodaway High School may be able to receive A+ Financial Incentives. The funding for financial incentives is dependent entirely upon continued support and availability of state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

It is the responsibility of the A+ Program Coordinator to administer the program in a fair and consistent manner. All A+ students will be treated fairly and equitably. Accurate certification of students is crucial to the integrity of the program. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to read this handbook carefully to understand all the guidelines and regulations before signing the Student Participation Agreement.

Any questions about this handbook or the A+ Program should be directed to the A+ Coordinator at North Nodaway High School. You may call or set an appointment by calling (660) 778-3315.

Goals of the North Nodaway **A+ Program**

The A+ Program concept is designed to achieve the three basic goals that are set forth in the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. The three goals of the A+ Program are:

- ◆ All students will graduate from high school;
- ◆ All students will complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and has identified learner outcomes; and
- ◆ All students will proceed from high school graduation to a college or post-secondary vocational or technical school or high wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.

All projects and efforts of the A+ Program in the North Nodaway R-VI School District are designed to achieve the three basic objectives listed above.

A+ Program Student Benefits

The first North Nodaway High School class eligible to receive A+ Program financial incentives was the Class of 2012. Graduates who meet the A+ certification guidelines may receive financial incentives to attend a public Missouri community college or vocational/technical school of their choice. Beginning with the class of 2015, A+ students must meet the Algebra I EOC requirement.

These incentives may be made available by the State of Missouri ONLY 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. A student must be considered a full-time student by the post-secondary institution and maintain a 2.5 GPA to continue receiving the incentive.

These incentives may be available for four years after the student's date of graduation from North Nodaway High School, pending continued appropriations by the Missouri General Assembly.

Although the actual A+ financial incentive appropriated by the General Assembly can only be used at a public Missouri community or vocational/technical school, some 4-year colleges and universities now offer scholarships to their institutions as a means of recruiting A+ certified graduates. Please check with your intended college to see if scholarship money is available, or check with the A+ coordinator.