

**POPLAR BLUFF SENIOR HIGH**  
**A+ STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
**POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**



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

The purpose of this manual is to provide a clear understanding of the various aspects of the A+ Schools Program as established by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. There are many aspects of the law that established the A+ Schools Program that require Poplar Bluff High School to establish guidelines and policies. It is the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinator to administer the A+ Schools Program in a fair and consistent manner. All A+ Students must be treated fairly and equitably.

The first step of participation in the A+ Schools Program is the signing of the A+ Schools Participation Agreement by the student, parent, school principal and A+ Schools Coordinator. After all signatures are obtained the student is considered to be an A+ Student at Poplar Bluff High School. It is then the responsibility of the student to continue to meet the requirements to be certified as an A+ Student upon graduation.

Once achieved, Poplar Bluff School District has a responsibility to maintain the status of Poplar Bluff High School as an A+ School. It is the responsibility of the A+ Schools Coordinator to certify to the State of Missouri the students who have achieved this status upon graduation. It is realized that some students will not be able to meet the requirements as set forth in the A+ Schools Program. It will be the responsibility of the A+ Coordinator to notify the student and parents if it is determined that a student is not eligible for A+ student status. This handbook is designed to present, in a clear and consistent manner, the guidelines and policies to be followed by the A+ Schools Coordinator.

The A+ School Advisory Committee of Poplar Bluff High School helped prepare this booklet. This Committee consists of a Poplar Bluff High School administrator, 2 Poplar Bluff High School faculty members, and 2 Poplar Bluff High School counselors. Please read this information carefully. It is provided for parents/guardians, students, and employees of the Poplar Bluff School District so that a clear understanding of the requirements for becoming an A+ Student is achieved. Any questions about this manual or the A+ Program should be directed to the A+ Coordinator, Gayla Fritts, at Poplar Bluff High School, 785-6471 or [gaylafritts@pb.k12.mo.us](mailto:gaylafritts@pb.k12.mo.us)

## **Goals of the A+ Schools Program**

The A+ Schools concept is designed to achieve the 3 basic goals that are set forth in the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. The 3 goals of the A+ Schools Program are listed below:

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

## **Benefits for Students of an A+ School**

The A+ Program began with the graduating class of 1999 at Poplar Bluff High School. The A+ student financial incentive is dependent upon Poplar Bluff High School maintaining designated status as an A+ school and the availability of state appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly. Since Poplar Bluff High School is considered an A+ School by the State of Missouri, graduating students who meet the requirements of the A+ Schools program will be eligible for the following:

- Partial or free tuition and general fees to a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year schools of their choice in Missouri.

These monies are paid directly to the secondary institution from the state department pending state funding and will be made available after the student has documented a good faith effort to secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment (file a FAFSA).

A+ Student eligibility expires when the earliest of the following occurs:

- 48 months from their date of graduation as noted on their Poplar Bluff High School transcript
- receipt of an associate's degree or completion of 105% of the hours required for the program in which they are enrolled

Students graduating from high school in mid-year will be eligible for a spring award because their high school transcript will indicate the mid-year graduation date. The award comes from the state of Missouri, not Poplar Bluff R-1 School district. Students must meet full-time status as defined by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and be enrolled at a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year schools. Students must also maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and otherwise maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by their school. More information regarding the A+ Scholarship can be found at

<http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>

A+ students are under no obligation to use the A+ financial benefits. The benefits are earned by each individual student and are not transferable to any other student.

Financial need is not a factor in determining an A+ participant's eligibility for A+ benefits. However, an A+ participant is required to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to make sure he/she is not eligible for any financial aid that does not require repayment.

### **A+ Schools Participation Agreement**

A student may enter into this written agreement at any time during his/her high school career. However, enrolling in the program early allows the student and parents/guardians to receive regular information on the A+ Schools Program from the A+ Coordinator. It is also beneficial to the student to indicate his/her intent to participate in the program to allow for beneficial monitoring by the A+ Coordinator. Therefore, it is recommended that the agreement be signed as early as possible.

## Student Eligibility

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program, a student must be certified as an A+ Student by Poplar Bluff High School. As the official representative of the A+ Schools Program with the Department of Education of the State of Missouri, the A+ Schools Coordinator has the responsibility to certify if a graduate of Poplar Bluff High School has met the criteria of certification. To be certified as an A+ Schools Student, an individual must meet the following requirements (explained in detail throughout this manual):

- Sign an A+ Student Participation Agreement (Copy included in the appendix of this booklet);
- **Attend Poplar Bluff High School (or an A+ designated high school) for 3 years prior to graduation;**
- Graduate from high school with a non-weighted, cumulative grade point average of 6.875 or higher (on an 11.0 scale);
- Graduate with a 95% cumulative attendance record (grades 9-12);
- Perform 50 hours of documented, unpaid tutoring (of which up to 12.5 hours may include Job Shadowing) under the supervision of a Poplar Bluff R-1 School District employee or the A+ Coordinator;
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol and violence;
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. This includes students with deferred action on childhood arrivals (DACA) status and eligible non-citizens that have a lawful immigration status but are not permanent residents.
- Make a documented, good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I (or DESE approved higher-level math) end of course exam or meet the alternate requirements set forth by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

If the end of course exam requirement isn't met, students may also qualify by achieving a qualifying score (listed below) for the ACT math subtest while in high school or college. Students in this latter category will not be eligible for A+ reimbursement until a qualifying score has been achieved. Until eligibility is established, students can seek assistance to remediate their math deficiencies, including taking developmental coursework at their own expense. Once a student meets the criteria, the student is considered to have met this requirement regardless of previous or subsequent scores received on any of the other options. For example, a student that scores basic on the Algebra I EOC, scores proficient on the Algebra II EOC, and scores a 16 on the ACT math subtest is eligible based on the Algebra II EOC score even though previous EOC and subsequent ACT scores did not meet the eligibility threshold. Students can also retake all of these exams in an effort to achieve a qualifying score.

ACT Math Score		High School GPA
17 or greater	and	2.5/4.0 or greater
16	and	2.8/4.0 or greater
15	and	3.0/4.0 or greater

### Enrollment Requirements

**A student must enroll at Poplar Bluff High School no later than 20 calendar days after the beginning of the fall term of the student's sophomore year.** A student that enrolls in the Poplar Bluff R-1 School District 20 days after the beginning of his/her sophomore year does not qualify to participate in the A+ Schools Program at Poplar Bluff High School unless they transfer from an A+ designated school. If a student withdraws or transfers from Poplar Bluff High School to a non-designated A+ School, the student will not be considered eligible for the A+ Schools Program. If one of the student's parents is a member of the military on active duty or has retired from the military and relocated to Missouri within one year of his or her retirement, the student is exempt from this requirement. However, he or she must attend an A+ designated high school and meet all of the other high school eligibility requirements in the school year immediately preceding graduation. Students must meet all requirements since their freshman year of high school, including the time they attended an A+ designated school other than Poplar Bluff High School.

### Grade Point Requirement

To be eligible for the A+ schools financial assistance, the student must graduate with a cumulative, non-weighted grade point average of 6.875 on an 11-pt. scale. The cumulative grade point average is for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years and is calculated using semester grades (not quarter grades). The student's official transcript will serve as evidence of grade point average for admission into an approved Missouri public community college or Missouri public vocational/technical school.

Parents/guardians and students who have an A+ Agreement signed and on file will be provided information regarding their High School Unweighted Grade Point Average on the student's Report Card each semester. The A+ participant has the responsibility to closely monitor his/her grade point average. Final determination of A+ eligibility cannot be made until an A+ participant graduates and his/her final GPA is calculated.

### Good Faith Effort to Secure Funding

Parents must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by April 1 of the student's senior year. The FAFSA information must be sent to the eligible Missouri community college or public

vocational/technical school that the student is planning to attend. The FAFSA application form is available in the guidance counselor's office of Poplar Bluff High School or online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Verification that the FAFSA has been filed must be provided to the A+ Coordinator. All parents/guardians of graduating seniors must meet the FAFSA deadline of April 1 to be eligible for A+ funding. Students who meet the A+ requirements but do not plan on attending college immediately, must complete the current year's FAFSA during the senior year, as well as at the time he or she plans to enter college in order to be eligible for A+. Parents are encouraged to apply as early as possible, but not before January 1<sup>st</sup> or after June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of the student's graduation.

### **Attendance Requirement**

The student must graduate with a cumulative attendance rate of 95% or higher. The attendance record is for all four years of high school. Approximately, this means missing no more than 30 days of school over all 4 years. All absences count against attendance unless the absence is school related OR the student is on homebound status. Extenuating circumstances such as health problems or accident-related injuries may cause a student to miss long periods of school. In such cases, the student and parent/guardian are to contact the high school office immediately to begin the process of homebound instruction. A student on homebound instruction is allowed to be counted for school attendance.

The cumulative attendance information will come from the official attendance record kept by Poplar Bluff High School. Parents/guardians and students who have an A+ Agreement signed and on file will be provided information regarding their High School cumulative attendance on the student's Report Card each semester. However, it is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance. After receiving this information, the parent will have 30 days to file an appeal (copy included in the appendix of this booklet) for an A+ waiver. If an appeal is not filed within 30 days of notification, then a waiver for those days missed will not be considered.

Those submitting an appeal for an A+ waiver of days missed shall provide the A+ Coordinator with official documentation of the following:

**Reason for Absence Documentation Required** Hospitalization Physician's Letter

Chronic Health Problems or Catastrophic Illness/Injury Physician's Letter

Court Appearance Court Letter

Personal/family calamity Parent and school

counselor's letter

Religious Holiday Religious Leader's letter Funeral Parent Letter and copy of death

certificate, obituary,

or memorial pamphlet

**A student will not receive a waiver if any absence is due to any of the following:**

1. Truancy and/or Skipping Classes
2. Dentist or Orthodontist Visits
3. Personal/Family Vacation

4. Transportation Problems (Unless late on a school bus)
5. Suspended from class or school for any reason
6. Routine Doctor Visits

**When all of the information is received, the A+ Advisory Committee will meet to decide if a waiver of the absences will be granted. After the Committee reaches a decision, the student and parents/guardian will be notified by letter. The student and parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the Poplar Bluff R-1 Board of Education.**

**Note: The A+ attendance requirements are not to be confused with the general attendance requirements as printed in the Poplar Bluff High School Student Handbook.**

### **Tutoring/Mentoring Requirements**

**The law states that A+ students must perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring (of which 12.5 hours may include job shadowing). Listed below are the A+ Schools tutoring guidelines concerning tutoring or mentoring:**

- ❖ **Before a student can begin tutoring, they must have achieved at least 9 credits toward graduation, be considered a good citizen by the school, and have an A+ Participation Agreement signed.**
- ❖ **Tutoring must be school sponsored and done on school premises or at the Boys & Girls power hour locations. Tutors will need to schedule tutoring sessions with the A+ Coordinator.**
- ❖ **No financial remuneration may be accepted for tutoring/mentoring.**
- ❖ **The students must participate in orientation/training before the tutoring begins**
- ❖ **An official time log sheet must be kept by the student, signed by the school-sponsored official in charge of that tutoring and turned in at the end of the semester or when all hours are completed.**
- ❖ **Tutoring may be done during the school year or during summer school.**
- ❖ **All tutoring experiences must begin before March 1<sup>st</sup> in the year the A+ student graduates from Poplar Bluff High School.**
- ❖ **If a student chooses to do 12.5 hours of job shadowing as part of their 50 hours requirement, he/she must have the job shadowing form (copy provided in the appendix of this booklet) filled out by the person in charge of the shadowing experience.**
- ❖ **The student is expected to be present at the agreed upon day and time for tutoring. The A+ Student or the sponsoring school may terminate the tutoring experience with the permission of the A+ Schools Coordinator.**

- ❖ If an absence must occur, the A+ student is expected to notify the adult in charge of the A+ tutoring experience. The notification should be as soon as the student knows he/she cannot make the tutoring or mentoring experience.
- ❖ Failure to notify will result in the following: First time: Verbal reprimand by the A+ Schools Coordinator. Second time: Written up for truancy.
- ❖ If a tutoring opportunity is canceled by the school, the adult in charge is expected to notify the A+ student as soon as possible.

The list below contains possible opportunities that will count toward the 50 hours of unpaid tutoring requirement of the A+ Schools Program.

1. Advanced Foreign Language Tutoring
2. Elementary School Tutoring/Mentoring
3. Elementary Summer School Tutoring/Mentoring
4. Junior High Tutoring/Mentoring
5. High School Tutoring/Mentoring
6. Boys & Girls Club Power Hour tutoring
7. A+ Tutoring Semester Course: Counts as ½ credit of practical art (for Juniors and Seniors only). Students will tutor daily within the school district at an assigned location.

In order to take the A+ Tutoring course, students must meet the following EXPECTATIONS:

**Compliance**—The tutor must be meeting the requirements of the A+ Program with a cumulative unweighted grade point average of at least 6.875 and cumulative attendance of at least 95%.

**Behavior**—The tutor is expected to behave as the more mature member of the tutoring team. The behavior of the tutor is as important for the person receiving the tutoring as the subject matter. Students who do not meet the citizenship requirements (provided in this manual) necessary to receive the A+ Scholarship will not be allowed to take the A+ tutoring class provided by Poplar Bluff High School.

**Promptness**—The tutor is expected to be on time for tutoring sessions and to use the time wisely.

**Compensation**—The tutor is not to receive money or other compensation for tutoring. The compensation, upon completion of all requirements, will be tuition and fees for your continued education.

**Confidentiality**—Confidentiality (both during and after the tutor's assignment) concerning any student whom the tutor assists is required in order to participate. Privileged information given by the student, the student's parents, and/or teachers must be kept private and confidential. If your student reaches out to you with problems that require outside help, immediately report this to the supervising teacher before leaving the building.

## **TERMINATION OF OPPORTUNITY**

Any single significant action, or repeated actions, in violation of school district policy or procedures may result in the termination of the opportunity to tutor. The students will then be assigned another class if scheduled in the A+ Tutoring Course during the school day. Disclosure of information to others not involved with the tutee will be considered a breach of contract and could result in dismissal from the A+ tutoring program and/or other disciplinary actions.

### **Citizenship Requirement**

The A+ Schools requirement specifically states students must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol. The list below explains the guidelines to be used to determine the citizenship requirement:

- Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and privilege for Poplar Bluff High School students.
- An A+ Student will not sell, possess or use any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined by law unless prescribed by a licensed physician. Any violation of this policy will result in loss of A+ eligibility.
  - A student will lose A+ eligibility if he/she accumulates ten (10) days of suspension (Out of School Suspension and Suspension Center) or accumulates 10 days of In School Suspension (ISS) or a combination of both that equal 10 or more days during his/her high school career. Suspension records for eligible students who transfer from another district will be used to determine eligibility.
- Upon signing the A+ Participation agreement, you allow the A+ Coordinator permission to check disciplinary records to verify compliance with the Drug Free/Alcohol Free pledge.

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

- Criminal Activity as defined by the Safe Schools Act
- Assault
- Physical threat to staff
- Vandalism/theft
- False fire alarm/bomb threats and misuse of emergency equipment
- Sexual misbehavior/exposure/harassment
- Charged, convicted, or pled guilty in a court of general jurisdiction (Missouri Circuit Court or Federal Court) for the commission of a felony violation of state or federal law.

Note: Because it is impossible to publish all situations that may result in removal from the A+ Schools program, situations must not be literally in writing to be enforceable.

## Algebra I End of Course Exam

A+ students must achieve a “proficient” or “advanced” score on the Algebra I or a higher-level math End of Course Exam (EOC). Students will be allowed to retake the exam. If a student meets all of the eligibility requirements except the end of course exam requirement, he/she may establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the mathematics component of the ACT test. Students may achieve the qualifying score as a high school or postsecondary student. If the score is achieved as a postsecondary student, eligibility may be awarded in the same term that the test was taken. Furthermore, if the score is achieved as a postsecondary student, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the Poplar Bluff High School A+ Coordinator so the high school transcript can be stamped with eligibility approval. The MDHE will announce the qualifying ACT scores annually. The following table displays the qualifying scores for the 2018 high school seniors.

ACT Math Score		High School GPA
17 or greater	and	2.5/4.0 or greater
16	and	2.8/4.0 or greater
15	and	3.0/4.0 or greater

### Due Process:

A student who believes that he/she has been declared ineligible for the A+ Schools Program unfairly may appeal to the A+ Schools Advisory Committee. In cases of appeal, the student or parent/guardian must notify the A+ Coordinator with his/her intent to appeal (copy provided in the appendix of this booklet) within 30 days of receiving the ineligibility letter. The A+ Schools Advisory Committee shall hear the appeal and return its decision to the student. The A+ Schools Advisory Committee will consist of a Poplar Bluff High School administrator, 2 Poplar Bluff High School faculty members, and 2 Poplar Bluff High School counselors. The decision of the committee can be appealed to the Poplar Bluff R-1 School Board of Education. The A+ Coordinator will facilitate the appeal but will not be involved in the voting process. In some cases, the A+ Schools Advisory Committee will determine the student is to be placed on probation. If so, the student must have 2 semesters without any further issues to be fully reinstated or they will be permanently disqualified from receiving the A+ Scholarship.

### Good Faith Effort-FAFSA

The A+ Scholarship is available only after the student has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that does not require repayment.

- ❖ The FAFSA form is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Parents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after January 1 of the student's senior school year unless the senior is graduating at mid-year, in which case parents should apply before the end of the school year using the previous year's tax returns.
- ❖ Students should be sure to list the community college or vocational school they plan to attend on the FAFSA. Failing to do so causes unnecessary delays. Students may list up to 10 schools on the FAFSA.
- ❖ The A+ Scholarship will be awarded to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and general fees after available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds have been applied to these costs.
- ❖ The A+ Scholarship award could be zero dependent on the amount the student receives from a Pell Grant.

#### **Accessing Tuition Benefits**

Upon high school graduation, an A+ graduate will have a 4-year window to complete 6 semesters (counting summer semesters) of eligible funding. The A+ financial incentive covers tuition and common fees only.

Final high school transcripts of eligible graduates will be stamped with the A+ seal. In order to receive the financial incentives, a student must be enrolled full-time. A student may enroll in an eligible post-secondary institution in any fall semester, spring semester, or summer session or other term identified by the institution immediately following the official spring graduation date of the student's respective class.

An eligible A+ graduate may choose, or find necessary, to delay his/her enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution immediately following high school graduation. Regardless of the reason for this delay, a student has a maximum of 48 consecutive months from high school graduation during which A+ benefits may be accessed.

The A+ student must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA while at any postsecondary institution. In order to be eligible to receive A+ financial incentives for a subsequent term a student must have completed a minimum of a full-time academic load for the semester. A student must have achieved a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale on hours taken at any institution.

If a student does not complete the minimum full-time requirement and/or has a cumulative GPA that falls below the 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale, the student is not eligible to receive an A+ schools financial incentive for the following semester.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Gayla Fritts, A+ Coordinator**

**573-785-6471 ext. 19049**

**Email: [gaylafritts@pb.k12.mo.us](mailto:gaylafritts@pb.k12.mo.us)**

Student Name:

Parent(s) Name:

This request is to appeal an A+ Citizenship violation resulting in removal from the A+ Program. In the space below, please indicate the date(s) of disciplinary action and the reason for the request to be reviewed. Please attach any documentation that supports your appeal.

The A+ Coordinator must receive this request within 30 days of notification of the A+ Citizenship Violation.

The A+ Advisory Committee, which is made up of 1 Poplar Bluff High School Administrator, 2 Faculty Members, and 2 counselors will decide to accept, accept with probation or deny the appeal.

Date of Incident(s):

Date of Removal Letter:

Justification for Appeal:

**For A+ Office Use:**

**Date Reviewed:**

**Date Decision Letter Sent:**

**Date Appeal Committee Met:**

**Appeal: ACCEPTED / ACCEPTED WITH PROBATION/ DENIED**

Student Name:

Parent(s) Name:

This request is to appeal school absences for the following:

     First Semester      Second Semester School Year

In the space below, please indicate the date(s) of the absence(s) and the reason for the request to be reviewed. Please attach any documentation that supports your appeal.

**Reason for Absence Documentation Required** Hospitalization Physician's Letter

Chronic Health Problems or Catastrophic Illness/Injury Physician's Letter

Court Appearance Court Letter

Personal/family calamity Parent and school

counselor's letter

Religious Holiday Religious Leader's letter

Funeral Parent Letter and copy of

death certificate, obituary,  
or memorial pamphlet

This request must be received by the A+ Coordinator within 30 days of notification of the attendance report. The A+ Advisory Committee, which is made up of 1 Poplar Bluff High School Administrator, 2 Faculty Members, and 2 counselors will decide to accept or deny the appeal.

<i>Date of Absence</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>

**For A+ Office Use:**

**Date Reviewed:**

**Date Decision Letter Sent:**

**Date Appeal Committee Met: Appeal: ACCEPTED DENIED**

**Job Shadowing Verification Form**

(please print)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Shadowed \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Shadowed: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Company Name) (Street Address) (City)

Employer's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**To be completed by employer:**

The above student met with me on \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

I was able to share about:

\_\_\_\_\_ Specific skills needed for my job

\_\_\_\_\_ Specific education needed for my job

\_\_\_\_\_ Ways the student can prepare for employment in my field

\_\_\_\_\_ What I like best about my career

\_\_\_\_\_ Some frustrating parts of my job

\_\_\_\_\_ Future outlook for my profession

\_\_\_\_\_ The student also had an opportunity to observe me working in my employment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Employer Signature**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Student is to return this form to the A+ Coordinator within 1 week of the Job Shadowing Experience.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**To be completed by the A+ Coordinator**

\_\_\_\_\_ Job Shadowing Hours Earned

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Recorded

# POPLAR BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL

## A+ SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATING CLASS OF \_\_\_\_\_

Since Poplar Bluff High School has been designated as an A+ School, eligible students will receive financial incentives until the earliest of the following occurs: 48 months from their date of graduation as indicated on their HS transcript, receipt of an associate's degree, completion of 105% of the hours required for the program in which they are enrolled

To be eligible for these incentives, students and parents need to be aware of the following criteria:

1. Must sign this A+ Contract and return to the A+ Coordinator.
2. Attend a designated Missouri A+ high school, including Poplar Bluff High School, for three years prior to graduation.
3. Graduate from Poplar Bluff High School with a non-weighted grade point average of 6.875 or higher on an 11.0 scale (2.5 on a 4.0 scale). Unweighted GPAs are NOT printed on the student's grade card. Parents/students MUST monitor that on the SIS parent portal. To sign up for the parent portal, contact the PBHS office.
4. Have at least a 95% attendance record during the four-year period prior to graduation from Poplar Bluff High School. All absences count against A+ attendance except homebound and school functions.
5. Have achieved a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I (or higher-level math) end of course exam or establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the mathematics component of the ACT test.
6. Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which 25% may include job shadowing.
7. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol (refer to the PBHS A+ Manual <http://www.poplarbluffschoools.net/admin/policy-manual/>). The signatures below give Poplar Bluff High School A+ representatives permission to examine and evaluate the cumulative disciplinary record of the student.
8. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. This includes students with deferred action on childhood arrivals (DACA) status and eligible non-citizens that have a lawful immigration status but are not permanent residents.
9. Realize that tuition reimbursement will be made available 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. STUDENTS MUST FILE FAFSA BEFORE GRADUATION.
10. After graduation, maintain eligibility during a 48-month period by enrolling and attending on a full-time basis, a Missouri public community college or public vocational or technical school; and maintain a grade point average of 2.5 points or higher on a 4-point scale.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Poplar Bluff Principal / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator / Date