

# LHS

## LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL

# A+

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Dear Student and Parent,

Welcome to the Lebanon High School A+ Program. The purpose of the A+ Program is to insure that:

- all students graduate from high school.
- all students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identifiable learning expectations.
- all students proceed from high school graduation to a college, a post-secondary vocational school, a technical school, or a high paying job with workplace skill development opportunities.

The Lebanon High School A+ Schools Program enables students to qualify for state-paid tuition reimbursement to attend any public community college or career/technical school in Missouri. All funding is based upon availability of state funds and can be affected by state budget decisions. Please refer to the A+ Program changes and updates included in this handbook and you may check the state website at <http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>. By completing the A+ requirements which includes a rigorous program of academic and technical education, you will be prepared for the workplace, post-secondary vocational/technical training or college that will make you more successful in the future workforce.

The first step toward participation in the program is the signing of the Lebanon High School A+ Agreement located on page 6 of this handbook. I look forward to working with you to meet both your educational and career goals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Matthews  
Assistant Principal  
A+ Coordinator

## Student Eligibility

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program, a student must be certified as an A+ Student by Lebanon High School. The A+ Coordinator has the responsibility to certify whether a graduate of LHS has met the criteria of the program. To qualify for certification, the student must meet the following nine requirements:

**Requirement 1: Enter into a written agreement prior to graduation and have attended a designated A+ high school for two (2) years prior to graduation.** Students must sign a written A+ Agreement (located on page 6 of this handbook) and must attend LHS or transfer to LHS from another designated A+ school district.

**Requirement 2: Graduate from high school with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.** This grade point average will represent the applicant's cumulative GPA which includes the freshman through senior years. A student with a GPA less than 2.50 is not eligible. The weight of weighted grades is NOT used to meet this 2.5.

**Requirement 3: Have a 95% cumulative attendance record.** The applicant must have a 95% or better average attendance record for the four-year period – freshman through senior years. A student with a 94.99 percent or lower attendance record will not be eligible. Students along with their parents, may appeal the attendance requirement if extenuating circumstances exist that negatively impact the attendance percentage. An official appeals form can be obtained in the LHS A+ office.

**Requirement 4: Perform and document 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring of younger students through a school approved program.** The following guidelines should be followed for the completion of this requirement. Should a question concerning this requirement arise, please contact the A+ Coordinator.

- ❖ All tutoring and mentoring activities will be designed to involve the A+ applicant with other students in the A+ district. Students may tutor in a K-8 sending school by special arrangement.
- ❖ A minimum of 37.5 hours of the required hours must be in direct student tutoring and/or mentoring. Zero hours will be accepted for community service, setting up events or anything else that does not directly involve student tutoring and/or mentoring.
- ❖ Tutoring and mentoring will provide, as an ultimate goal, encouragement to students to get more deeply interested in school, stay in school, and strive for good grades.
- ❖ Tutoring and mentoring activities will be curriculum-based and under the auspices of the Lebanon R-3 school (not private or public sector programs in which the school has no input into the activity).
- ❖ The tutoring and mentoring activities must occur before, after, or during the school day. Students will *not* be allowed to leave the LHS campus during the school day for tutoring/mentoring purposes.
- ❖ All tutoring and mentoring must be supervised and verified by a teacher, principal, counselor, or the A+ coordinator.
- ❖ The required 50 hours of tutoring must be completed prior to graduation to be considered for A+ status. Students are responsible for maintaining copies of their tutoring logs and turning them into the A+ office.

**Requirement 5: Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs (including alcohol).** Participating in the A+ Program is an honor and unique privilege for LHS students. Students pursuing the A+ incentives must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs/alcohol. Certification of good citizenship will be based on official discipline records maintained by the high school. Students who are denied A+ certification based upon citizenship will be able to appeal the decision to the A+ Appeals Committee.

**Requirement 6: Make a good faith effort to secure federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds.** During the applicant's senior year, he/she will be required to complete an application for securing federal post-secondary financial assistance (FAFSA). The student must file the FAFSA form by April 1 to be considered a good faith effort to secure federal post-secondary financial assistance funds.

**Requirement 7: Register for the Selective Service by the age of 18 (males only).**

**Requirement 8: Algebra I EOC** -Qualifiers must achieve a score of *Proficient* or *Advanced* on the Algebra I End of Course exam. EOC retakes will be allowed, if necessary, by the state for those seeking A+ qualification.

If you meet all of the eligibility requirements except the end of course exam requirement, you may establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the mathematics component of the ACT test and the corresponding GPA. You may achieve the qualifying score as a high school or postsecondary student. If you achieve the score as a postsecondary student you may be eligible for an award in the same term that you take the test. The MDHE will announce the qualifying ACT scores annually.

The 2023 high school seniors who do not achieve a score of *Proficient* or *Advanced* on the Algebra I End of Course exam, or a higher level math, EOC must achieve one of the following standardized test scores or have a combined ACT math score and high school GPA in accordance with the following scale:

*ACT Math/High School GPA Scale*

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

**Requirement 9: Deadlines**

- ❖ **Deadline** for seniors to enroll is **April 15<sup>th</sup>** of their senior year.
- ❖ **Deadline** for seniors to turn in all material to meet requirements is the seniors' last day of school.
- ❖ **Deadline** to be recognized in the graduation ceremony program is the last day of school one week before graduation.

# Benefits for Students

Qualified A+ graduates will be eligible to receive *FREE tuition to attend any public community college, vocational or technical school in the state of Missouri for 2 years*. Private scholarships will not affect eligibility for A+ status, nor reduce the state's responsibility to the college or vocational/technical school. Also, financial need is not a factor in determining A+ eligibility. In addition, all students will benefit from the technology in the curriculum, the development of more effective instructional techniques, clearly stated and measurable learner expectations and graduation performance standards, and more extensive career exploration and guidance activities. These costs will be reimbursable only after secured federal post-secondary financial assistance funds that do not require repayment have been applied. The incentive will be available for up to two years of attendance during a four year period following graduation.

## A+ Program Changes and Updates – MO Dept of Higher Education (MDHE)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>Items covered by the A+ Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student tuition (in-district or out-of-district)</li> <li>● Common student fees (\$12/credit hour student fee and \$5/credit hour technology fee)</li> </ul> <p><b>Items NOT covered by the A+ Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lab fees and all other miscellaneous fees such as late fees or re-enrollment fees</li> <li>● Online course fees - A+ will pay tuition and common fees related to online coursework, but will not cover the \$65 online course fee charged per course</li> <li>● Graduation fees, infrastructure and parking fees, drop fees</li> <li>● Books and Supplies</li> </ul>   |
| 2 | <p><b>The length of the eligibility period for the A+ Scholarship will be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 48 months immediately following high school graduation</li> <li>● Receipt of an Associate's degree</li> <li>● Completion of 105% of the required hours for the student's program of study</li> </ul> <p>*Students qualifying for a military deferment may have their eligibility extended beyond 48 months. The extension corresponds to the length of active military duty; application for deferment is available through MDHE.</p>   |
| 3 | <p><b>A+ and Pell Grants</b> – Federal Pell Grant funds will be applied to student account balances first; if any A+ eligible costs remain, they will be billed to A+. <i>A student can't receive A+ in addition to a Pell Grant if the Pell Grant pays for all tuition and fees.</i> However, the student may have access to their A+ Scholarship for use in later semesters during which they might become Pell Grant ineligible. The recognition of being an A+ graduate remains intact, and students can list A+ on resumes and applications as an achievement they earned for a job well done in high school.</p>  |
| 4 | <p><b>Maintaining A+ Eligibility</b> - Students must be enrolled full-time, maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and maintain a cumulative 67% completion ratio (<i>Completion Ratio = # of Completed Hours / # of Attempted Hours</i>). If students lose their A+ eligibility, they can get it back with the 48-month period immediately following graduation by re-establishing their GPA and/or completion ratio. A+ will not pay for coursework while students are working to re-establish their eligibility.</p>   |
| 5 | <p><b>Withdrawal From All Classes</b> – Students who withdraw from all classes during their <i>first semester</i>, will no longer be eligible for A+ because the withdrawal from all classes or failure to complete at least 3 credit hours will result in a cumulative GPA of 0 and a completion ratio of 0%.</p> <p>If a student withdraws from all classes <i>after their first semester</i>, the failure to successfully complete at least 67% of all credit hours attempted will cause them to be placed on financial aid warning. Students on warning may continue to receive A+ benefits for 1 semester, but must re-establish a cumulative completion ratio of 67% and 2.5 GPA requirement by the end of the semester to continue to receive A+ benefits.</p>   |
| 6 | <p><b>Exception To The 3-Year Rule</b> - Students must attend an A+ designated school the three years immediately prior to graduation unless they are dependents of <i>active</i> military families or <i>retired</i> military who relocate to MO within one year of retirement.</p>  |
| 7 | <p><b>Computation of Attendance Average</b> – Students transferring between public or private MO high schools will have all 4 years computed in their final attendance average. Students transferring from an out-of-state high school, attended during Grade 9, will have only 3 years computed in their final attendance average.</p>   |
| 8 | <p><b>Eligibility Expiration</b> – Eligibility will expire upon completion of 105% of credits earned toward an Associate degree. For example, if a degree program requires 62 credit hours for completion, A+ could pay for one 3 credit hour remedial course (if needed) and still remain within the 105% cap.</p> <p>Students who complete a certificate program and bridge over to a related 2-year degree program will have the 105% limit reset, but transfer hours will be included in the new limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The 105% limit <i>excludes</i>:</b> college credit hours earned before high school graduation ( e.g. dual credit, dual enrollment, technical education articulation, advanced placement, international baccalaureate)</li> <li>● <b>The 105% limit <i>includes</i>:</b> 1) all hours (including developmental/remedial hours) taken at the student's current post-secondary institution; 2) all known hours (including developmental/remedial hours) taken at any other A+ eligible institution; 3) hours taken at any non-eligible A+ institution, including out-of-state institutions, that the current institution accepts in transfer.</li> </ul> |

| 9              | <b>Incomplete or Dropped Classes</b> - A+ funds will be reduced by the amount paid for any incomplete or withdrawn coursework from a previous term. For example, students enrolled full-time (min 12 hours @ OTC) during the Fall semester, who drop a class, will have their scholarship reduced the following semester for the cost of the dropped class.  |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|----|-----|----------------|----|-----|----------------|----|-----|----------------|
| 10             | <b>Repeated Coursework</b> - A+ will not pay for repeated coursework. If a student took a class and a final grade was assigned, A+ will not cover the student's cost to retake the class. The hours related to the repeated course, however, can be included in the full-time enrollment criteria.   |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 11             | <b>Summer Use of A+ Scholarship</b> - ALL A+ qualifiers may attend the <i>summer semester (min 6 hour enrollment at OTC) immediately following high school graduation</i> and use their A+ scholarship. This change applies even if the student plans to attend a different institution in the fall.<br>After the student transfers to a different institution, they are considered <i>visiting students</i> at OTC and cannot use their A+ Scholarship during subsequent summers to accelerate their degree completion from another institution.  |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 12             | <b>Exceptions to Full Time Enrollment</b> - Use of the A+ Scholarship requires full-time enrollment (min 6 hours at OTC in the summer; 12 hours at OTC in fall and spring), with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student has a documented disability and an ADA letter on file (but must be enrolled in at least 6 hours)</li> <li>• Student plans to graduate at the end of the semester, has applied for graduation with the Registrar's Office, and needs less than full-time enrollment to complete degree coursework</li> <li>• Student is enrolled in all hours available for the program during a given term</li> <li>• Student is participating in a required internship</li> <li>• Student is enrolled in prerequisite coursework requiring less than full-time enrollment</li> </ul>  |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 13             | <b>Theology or Divinity Degrees</b> - A+ Scholarships cannot be used for students enrolled or intending to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.  |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 14             | <b>Criminal Record</b> - A+ Scholarships cannot be used if students have a criminal record preventing the receipt of federal Title IV student financial aid.   |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 15             | <b>Job Shadowing</b> - A job shadowing component can be allowed which contributes up to 25% toward the completion of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring. The state is allowing each district the flexibility of making the choice to accept the job shadowing or not. LHS will be accepting job shadowing.  |                 |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 16             | <p><b>Algebra I EOC</b> -Qualifiers must achieve a score of <i>Proficient</i> or <i>Advanced</i> on the Algebra I End of Course exam. EOC retakes will be allowed, if necessary, by the state for those seeking A+ qualification. If you meet all of the eligibility requirements except the end of course exam requirement, you may establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the mathematics component of the ACT test and the corresponding GPA. You may achieve the qualifying score as a high school or postsecondary student. If you achieve the score as a postsecondary student you may be eligible for an award in the same term that you take the test. The MDHE will announce the qualifying ACT scores annually.</p> <p>The 202 high school seniors who do not achieve a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I, or a higher level math, EOC must achieve one of the following standardized test scores or have a combined ACT math score and high school GPA in accordance with the following scale.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>ACT Math/High School GPA Scale</i></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">ACT Math Score</th> <th style="text-align: center;"></th> <th style="text-align: center;">High School GPA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">and</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.5 or greater</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">and</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.8 or greater</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">and</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.0 or greater</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | ACT Math Score  |  | High School GPA | 17 | and | 2.5 or greater | 16 | and | 2.8 or greater | 15 | and | 3.0 or greater |
| ACT Math Score |  | High School GPA |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 17             | and  | 2.5 or greater  |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 16             | and  | 2.8 or greater  |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |
| 15             | and  | 3.0 or greater  |  |                 |    |     |                |    |     |                |    |     |                |

## A+ Scholarship Summer Use and Degree Intent

**NEW! Summer Use of A+ Scholarship** – ALL A+ qualifiers may attend the *summer semester at any MO public community college (minimum 6-credit hour enrollment) immediately following high school graduation* and use their A+ scholarship. This change applies even if the student plans to attend a different institution in the fall. In addition to the 2023-2024 FASFA, you must complete the 2022-2023 FASFA to use A+ in the summer after graduation.

After the student transfers to a different institution, they are considered *visiting students* at participating colleges and technical schools. Students cannot use their A+ Scholarship during subsequent summers to accelerate their degree completion from another institution.

### MO PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEGREE INTENT

A+ seniors who plan to attend and earn degrees from MO public community colleges—CAN take courses during the summer to accelerate the completion of an Associate Degree. To use the A+ Scholarship the summer immediately following high school graduation, the student must file the appropriate FAFSA. Check with your A+ Coordinator for details.

An example of accelerated community college degree completion (65 hrs) is shown below:

|                  |                 |                |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Summer OTC 6 hrs | Fall OTC 18 hrs | Spr OTC 18 hrs |
| Summer OTC 6 hrs | Fall OTC 17 hrs | Spr OTC        |

### 4-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DEGREE INTENT

ALL A+ qualifiers may attend the *summer semester at any MO public community college (minimum 6-credit hour enrollment) immediately following high school graduation* and use their A+ scholarship. This change applies even if the student plans to attend a different institution in the fall. After the student transfers to a different institution, they are considered *visiting students* at participating colleges and technical schools. Students cannot use their A+ Scholarship during subsequent summers to accelerate their degree completion from another institution.

An example of accelerated 4-year degree completion at a 4-yr institution (132 hrs) is shown below:

|  |                        |   |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Summer OTC 6 hrs<br>CAN use A+ Scholarship     | Fall Univ of MO 18 hrs | Spr Univ of MO 18 hrs                                     |
| Summer OTC 9 hrs<br>*CANNOT use A+ Scholarship | Fall Univ of MO 18 hrs | Spr Univ of MO 18 hrs                                     |
| Summer OTC 9 hrs<br>*CANNOT use A+ Scholarship | Fall Univ of MO 18 hrs | Spr Univ of MO 18 hrs<br>(and possible degree completion) |

\*The use of A+ Scholarships **would not be allowed** (with *the exception of the first summer semester*), because the *student's intent* is to obtain a degree from a 4-year university. College expenses during the summer would be out-of-pocket or from some type of financial aid other than A+.

It is not the intent of the A+ Schools Program to provide financial benefits to students who plan to enroll at a four-year institution, but take courses at a community college during the summer term (with the exception of the first summer semester) for the purpose of accelerating their degree program at the four-year institution.

## Eligible A+ Community Colleges and Vocational Technical Schools

Arcadia Valley Career Technical Ctr  
Boonslick Technical Educ. Center  
Brookfield Area Career Center  
Cape Girardeau Car & Tech Center  
Car. & Tech. Center At Ft. Osage  
Carrollton Area Career Center  
Carthage Technical Center  
Cass Career Center  
Clinton Technical Sch.  
Columbia Area Career Center  
Crowder College  
Current River Career Center  
Dallas County Career Center  
Davis H. Hart Career Center  
East Central College  
Eldon Career Center  
Excelsior Springs Career Center  
Four Rivers Career Center  
Franklin Technology Center  
Gibson Technical Center  
Grand River Technical Sch.  
Hannibal Career & Tech. Center  
Herndon Career Center  
Hillyard Technical Center  
Jefferson College  
Kennett Career & Tech. Center  
Kirksville Area Tech. Center  
Lake Career & Technical Center  
Lamar Area Voc.-Tech. Sch.  
Lewis & Clark Career Center  
Lex La-Ray Technical Center  
Macon Area Voc. Sch.  
Metropolitan Community College  
Mineral Area College  
Missouri State University - West Plains  
Moberly Area Community College  
Moberly Area Technical Center  
Nevada Regional Tech.-Ctr.  
New Madrid R-I Tech Skills Ctr  
Nichols Career Center  
North Central Career Center  
North Central Missouri College  
North Technical  
Northland Career Center  
Northwest Technical Sch.  
Ozark Mountain Technical Center  
Ozarks Technical Community College  
Pemiscot Co Career & Tech Ctr  
Perryville Area Car & Tech Ctr  
Pike/Lincoln Technical Center  
Poplar Bluff Tech. Career Center

Ranken Technical College  
Rolla Technical Inst.  
Saline Co. Career Center  
Sikeston Career & Tech. Center  
South Central Career Center  
South Technical  
Southwest Area Career Center  
St. Charles Community College  
St. Louis Community College  
State Fair Community College  
State Technical College of Missouri  
Three Rivers Community College  
Unitec Career Center  
Warrensburg Area Career Center  
Waynesville Technical Academy





## A+ Agreement Lebanon R-3 School District

Lebanon High School has been designated as an A+ School and students who meet the requirements of the A+ program may qualify for two years of tuition reimbursement at a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical college. Reimbursements are subject to legislative appropriation. Students must meet or exceed ALL of the following requirements:

- Enter into a written agreement with Lebanon High School.
- Attend an A+ designated high school for two (2) years prior to graduation.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale (grades 9-12).
- Graduate with an average daily attendance of 95% or higher (grades 9-12).
- Perform fifty (50) hours of district supervised/unpaid tutoring or mentoring. (Approved by A+ Coordinator).
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.
- Make a good faith effort to secure federal financial assistance (that does not require repayment) by completing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Register with Selective Service (males only).
- **Algebra I EOC** - Qualifiers must achieve a score of *Proficient* or *Advanced* on the Algebra I End of Course exam. EOC retakes will be allowed, if necessary, by the state for those seeking A+ qualification. *MO DESE* will be working with districts to secure this plan - **OR** - Establish eligibility by achieving a qualifying score on the mathematics component of the ACT test. This may call for combining the ACT math score and high school GPA in accordance with the state directed scale.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anticipated Graduation Year

***\*By signing this agreement, the student and parent/guardian certify that they have read and understand the requirements that must be met for participation in the A+ Program at Lebanon High School.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date