

A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Nixa Public Schools encourages its students to further their education and training after they graduate from the district. For that reason, the district will participate in the state A+ Scholarship Program to provide students an opportunity to attend postsecondary education at a low cost. The district will follow the requirements as established by state law and regulation for the implementation and administration of its A+ Schools Program. The district shall employ an A+ Schools Program coordinator, as required by law.

Program Goals

The Nixa High School has established the following goals and performance standards:

1. All students graduate from high school.
 - ▶ 100% of those students in the A+ Schools Program will graduate from high school.
2. All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations.
 - ▶ 100% of those students in the A+ Schools Program will complete a rigorous selection of high school curriculum.
3. All students proceed from high school graduation to a college, postsecondary career-technical school or high-wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.
 - ▶ 100% of those students in the A+ Schools Program will matriculate to a college, post-secondary institution of learning, or a high-paying career in a technical field complete with workplace skill development.

Citizenship Component

An important component of the A+ Schools Program is the fostering of good citizenship in our district's students. A student demonstrates good citizenship by showing respect for self, law, property and the rights of others.

At the end of each semester student discipline records will be reviewed. Student discipline records will be maintained throughout their four years of high school. In-school and out-of-school suspension days are accumulative over the four years a student attends high school. Citizenship/discipline violations that may jeopardize a student's A+ status include, but are not limited to, the following:

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1. Suspensions (In-school) – Any student who receives discipline referrals which resulted in an accumulation of six days in-school suspension will receive a written warning. An accumulation of six additional days of in-school suspensions (total of 12 days) will be issued a second warning in writing. An additional accumulation of three days of in-school suspension (total of 15) will result in immediate removal from the A+ program.
2. Suspensions (Out-of-school) – Any student who receives three days of out-of-school suspension will receive a written warning. A student who receives an additional three days out-of-school suspension (total of 6 days) will result in immediate removal from the A+ Schools Program.

Automatic Ineligibility

A student will be *removed immediately* from the A+ Schools Program and thus forfeit the opportunity to receive funds through this program for any of the following:

Drugs/Alcohol/Substance Abuse

- ▶ Violation of the Nixa Public Schools Drug/Alcohol/Substance Abuse policy outlined in the Board Policy during the contract time.
- ▶ Formally charged, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* (no contest) to, received a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended execution of sentence for, agreed or a deferred prosecution for, or been convicted or found guilty of with unlawful possession, under the influence or selling of dugs, paraphernalia or alcohol.

Violation of Local, State or Federal Criminal Laws

- ▶ Pled guilty or *nolo contendere* (no contest) to, received a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended execution of sentence for, agreed or a deferred prosecution for, or been convicted of found guilty of a felony.
- ▶ The student has been charged with one or more of the following crimes or their equivalent, regardless of jurisdiction:
 - ▶ First and second degree murder
 - ▶ Kidnaping
 - ▶ First, second and third degree assault
 - ▶ Rape in the first degree or sodomy
 - ▶ First and second degree burglary
 - ▶ Robbery in the first degree

- ▶ Distribution of drugs
- ▶ Distribution of drugs to a minor
- ▶ First degree arson
- ▶ Voluntary/involuntary manslaughter
- ▶ Rape in the second degree
- ▶ Felonious restraint
- ▶ Property damage, first degree
- ▶ Possession of a weapon (provisions of chapter 571 Missouri revised statutes)
- ▶ Child molestation in the first degree
- ▶ Deviate sexual assault
- ▶ Sexual misconduct involving a child, first degree sexual abuse
- ▶ Harassment
- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Possession of controlled substance

Definitions

First Warning - A written warning will be issued when a student has accumulated 6 days in-school suspension and is in jeopardy of being removed from the A+ Schools Program as outlined above.

Second Warning- A certified letter will be issued to the parent/guardian placing the student on probation once the student has accumulated 12 days of in-school suspension or three days of out-of-school suspension and is in jeopardy of being removed from the A+ Schools Program as outlined above.

Removal from the Program - The student and the parent/guardian will be notified via certified mail that the student has been removed from the A+ Schools Program and will not be eligible to receive A+ Scholarship.

Participation Agreement, Discipline and Appeal

All students wishing to participate in the A+ Schools Program must submit a completed A+ Participation Agreement. If the coordinator determines that a student who has submitted a participation agreement has violated the terms of that agreement or district policies or procedures regarding A+ participation, the coordinator will issue a written warning or remove the student from the program. The student or the student's parents/guardians may appeal the removal from this program, in accordance with written district procedures, to the Board of Education or to a committee of Board members appointed by the president of the Board and given the authority to act for the Board. The Board or the Board's committee will hear the student's appeal in closed session and will notify the student of its decision.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: 08/23/2001

Revised: 07/12/2007; 02/10/2011; 04/17/2014; 05/11/2017

Legal Refs: § 160.545, RSMo.
6 C.S.R. 10-2.190

Nixa Public Schools, Nixa, Missouri