

HOUSE _____ **AMENDMENT NO.** _____

Offered By

AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 455, Page 1, Section A, Line 4, by inserting after all of said section and line the following:

“160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

(1) All students be graduated from school;

(2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations; and

(3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of grants made under the program to schools that:

(1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

(2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course offered by the school, and any course of studies which will qualify a student for graduation from the school; and

(3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead to a high school diploma; and

1 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects
2 for students pursuing vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and regulation of
3 the state board of education; and

4 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice of local
5 business persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary
6 vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board of
7 education. The plan shall specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from
8 those who developed the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to
9 update the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this
10 section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that
11 may drop out of school and the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such
12 students. The plan shall outline counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will
13 enter the work force upon graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern
14 programs, and shall contain procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of
15 the school to serve in schools receiving program grants.

16 3. A school district may participate in the program irrespective of its accreditation
17 classification by the state board of education, provided it meets all other requirements.

18 4. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school
19 district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a
20 grant under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
21 program unless the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator,
22 with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits
23 provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
24 program unless the district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as
25 specified by rule of the state board of education.

26 5. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by

1 this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by
2 August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a
3 plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of
4 rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and
5 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of
6 other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a
7 summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section
8 160.257 in the school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
9 plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related
10 to the authority of the state board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision
11 (9) of section 161.092 and such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of
12 education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school
13 district unless such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver
14 provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school
15 year in which the school fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized
16 by this section as specified in subsection 2 of this section.

17 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this section shall be
18 funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse
19 eligible students pursuant to subsection 7 of this section.

20 7. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and regulation of the state board of
21 education and with the advice of the coordinating board for higher education, establish a
22 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community
23 college or vocational or technical school or within the limits established in subsection 9 of this
24 section for any two-year private vocational or technical school for any student:

25 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately
26 prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that students

1 who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependants of retired military who
2 relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active duty, who,
3 in the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other requirements of this
4 subsection and are attending a school that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section
5 shall be exempt from the three-year attendance requirement of this subdivision; and

6 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of
7 funding that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection; and

8 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule
9 of the state board of education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this
10 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.

11 8. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of this section, the commissioner of
12 education shall establish a process, with the advice of the commissioner of higher education, by
13 which any student enrolled in a public high school in a district that has been declared unaccredited
14 by the state board of education, who otherwise qualifies for reimbursement under subsection 7 of
15 this section but whose high school does not qualify under subsection 2 of this section, may apply
16 for and receive reimbursement under this section.

17 (2) The commissioner of education shall designate school officers, such as but not limited
18 to guidance counselors, who shall be authorized to validate a student's eligibility under this
19 subsection.

20 (3) The commissioner of education shall monitor the accuracy of eligibility validation
21 under this section and may, if ineligible students beyond a reasonable margin of error are
22 validated, revoke an individual's authority to validate eligibility and may further require the school
23 district to repay reimbursements made for ineligible students.

24 9. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the
25 effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted
26 annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and

1 president pro tempore of the senate.

2 [9.] 10. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements
3 under [subsection 7] subsections 7 and 8 of this section, the following requirements shall be
4 satisfied:

5 (1) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be a member of the North
6 Central Association and be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008, and
7 maintain such accreditation;

8 (2) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be designated as a 501(c)(3)
9 nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

10 (3) No two-year private vocational or technical school shall receive tuition
11 reimbursements in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public community college for course
12 work offered by the private vocational or technical school within the service area of such college;
13 and

14 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical school
15 shall not violate the provisions of article IX, section 8, or article I, section 7, of the Missouri
16 Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution.”; and
17

18 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
19 accordingly.