

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 492,
2 Page 1, Section A, Line 3, by inserting immediately after said line the following:

3
4 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary
5 education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education. The
6 program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a
7 commitment to ensure that:

8 (1) All students be graduated from school;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action Taken _____ Date _____

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

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

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

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

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

36 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately
37 prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that students
38 who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependants of retired military who
39 relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active duty, who, in
40 the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and
41 are attending a school that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt
42 from the three-year attendance requirement of this subdivision; and

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

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

48 8. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of this section, the commissioner of

1 education shall establish a process, with the advice of the commissioner of higher education, by
 2 which any student enrolled in a public high school in a district that has been declared unaccredited
 3 by the state board of education, who otherwise qualifies for reimbursement under subsection 7 of this
 4 section but whose high school does not qualify under subsection 2 of this section, may apply for and
 5 receive reimbursement under this section.

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

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

12 9. The commissioner of education shall develop
 13 a procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such
 14 evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor,
 15 speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the senate.

16 [9.] 10. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under
 17 [subsection 7] subsections 7 and 8 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

26 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical school
 27 shall not violate the provisions of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the Missouri
 28 Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution."; and

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