

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] require public secondary schools that apply to be an
7 A+ school to demonstrate a 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

Action Taken _____ Date _____

1 detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and the
2 intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline counseling
3 and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon graduation from
4 high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and shall contain procedures for the
5 recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools receiving program
6 grants.

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

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

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

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

37 7.] The commissioner of higher education shall, by rule and regulation of the [state board of
38 education] coordinating board for higher education and with the advice of the [coordinating board
39 for higher education] state board of education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the
40 cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school or
41 within the limits established in subsection [9] 8 of this section for any two-year private vocational or

1 technical school for any student:

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

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

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

14 [8.] 5. Beginning with academic year 2015-16, the department of higher education shall
15 develop a procedure to permit the reimbursement of educational costs beyond tuition and general
16 fees incurred at an A+ eligible postsecondary institution by a student who qualifies for
17 reimbursement under subsection 4 of this section and applies for such reimbursement upon the
18 following conditions:

19 (1) The reimbursement shall be an amount no greater than tuition and related academic fees,
20 including book purchase or rental, for dual credit courses paid by the student while in high school;

21 (2) The dual credit course was provided by an institution that is a qualified A+
22 postsecondary institution under subsection 4 or 8 of this section;

23 (3) The dual credit course is accepted for credit by the institution at which the student uses
24 the A+ program.

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26 The provisions of this subsection shall be applicable only to postsecondary students at
27 vocational-technical centers and those pursuing a certificate or an associate of science or associate of
28 applied science degree at any other qualified A+ postsecondary institution.

29 6. If insufficient funds are available to provide full reimbursement of all permitted costs
30 under this section, the reimbursement shall be prioritized in the following order from highest to
31 lowest:

32 (1) Tuition;

33 (2) General fees;

34 (3) Other educational costs as defined by federal student financial aid regulations.

35 7. The commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education shall develop a
36 procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section for improving
37 high school outcomes and for effectiveness in providing access and completion of postsecondary
38 programs. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to
39 the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the senate.

40 [9.] 8. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under
41 subsection [7] 4 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

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

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