

HOUSE

AMENDMENT NO. ___

Offered by

of

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1250, Page 1,
2 In the Title, Line 3, by deleting "student assessment" and
3 inserting in lieu thereof "elementary and secondary education";
4 and

5
6 Further amend said bill, Page 4, Section 160.518, Line 88,
7 by inserting after all of said line the following:

8 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the
9 department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools
10 Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education.
11 The program shall consist of [grant awards] scholarships made to
12 graduates of public and private secondary schools [that
13 demonstrate a commitment to ensure that] who:

14 (1) [All students be graduated from school;

15 (2) All students] Complete a selection of high school
16 studies that is challenging and for which there are identified
17 learning expectations; and

18 [(3) All students] (2) Proceed from high school graduation
19 to a college or postsecondary vocational or technical school or
20 high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

21 2. Pursuant to the A+ program, the state board of education
22 shall promulgate rules and regulations [for the approval of
23 grants made under the program to schools that:

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

27 (2)] that specify the knowledge, skills and competencies,
28 in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to

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1 successfully complete any individual course offered by [the] a
2 school[,] and any course of studies which will qualify a student
3 for graduation from [the] such school[;] and does not include any
4 general track course, that upon completion, counts toward a high
5 school diploma, and

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

8 (4) Require] further specify rigorous coursework with
9 standards of competency in basic academic subjects for students
10 pursuing vocational and technical education [as prescribed by
11 rule and regulation of the state board of education; and

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

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

33 4. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may
34 determine a local school district variable fund match requirement
35 in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a
36 grant under the program. However, no school in any district
37 shall receive a grant under the program unless the district

1 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program
2 coordinator, with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the
3 cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the
4 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a
5 grant under the program unless the district makes available
6 facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified
7 by rule of the state board of education.

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

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

1 eligible students pursuant to subsection 7 of this section].

2 [7.] 3. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and
3 regulation of the state board of education and with the advice of
4 the coordinating board for higher education, establish a
5 procedure for the [reimbursement] payment of the cost of tuition,
6 books and fees to any public community college or vocational or
7 technical school or within the limits established in subsection
8 [9] 11 of this section for any two-year private vocational or
9 technical school for any student:

10 (1) Who has attended a public or private high school in the
11 state for at least three years immediately prior to graduation
12 [that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section],
13 except that students who are active duty military dependents, and
14 students who are dependants of retired military who relocate to
15 Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement
16 from active duty, who, in the school year immediately preceding
17 graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and
18 are attending a school that meets the requirements of [subsection
19 2 of] this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance
20 requirement of this subdivision; and

21 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all
22 available [federal] sources of funding that could be applied to
23 the [reimbursement described in this subsection] costs covered by
24 this scholarship program; and

25 (3) Who has earned a [minimal] grade point average of at
26 least two and one-half points on a four-point scale, or its
27 equivalent on another scale, while in high school [as determined
28 by rule of the state board of education,]i and

29 (4) Meets other requirements for the [reimbursement]
30 payment authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and
31 regulation of said board.

32 4. Student financial incentives shall be available for a
33 period of four years after high school graduation.

34 5. To be eligible for a student financial incentive, each
35 student shall:

36 (1) Have attended a public or private high school in

1 Missouri for three consecutive years prior to high school
2 graduation;

3 (2) Have graduated from high school with an overall grade
4 point average of two and five-tenths or higher on a four-point
5 scale, or its equivalent on another scale, or have graduated from
6 a high school with documented mastery of institutionally
7 identified skills that would equate to a two and five-tenths
8 grade point average or higher on a four-point scale;

9 (3) Have performed at least fifty hours of unpaid tutoring
10 or mentoring;

11 (4) Have at least a ninety-five percent attendance record
12 overall for grades nine through twelve; and

13 (5) Have maintained a record of good citizenship and
14 avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.

15 6. To maintain eligibility, each participating student
16 shall, during the four-year period of incentive availability:

17 (1) Enroll in and attend on a full-time basis a Missouri
18 public community college, vocational or technical school, state
19 technical college, or within the limits established in subsection
20 11 of this section, any two-year private vocational or technical
21 school;

22 (2) Maintain a grade point average of two and five-tenths
23 points or higher on a four-point scale, or its equivalent on
24 another scale; and

25 (3) Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of
26 the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.

27 7. The financial incentives shall be made available,
28 subject to appropriation, only after the student has made a
29 documented good faith effort to first secure all available
30 postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not
31 require repayment.

32 8. Subject to appropriation, the financial incentives shall
33 only be made available to pay the unpaid balance of the cost of
34 tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent of the book cost
35 after all postsecondary student financial assistance funds have
36 been applied to these costs. If changes are made to the above
37 incentives, the department of elementary and secondary education

1 shall provide payments in the following order of priority:

2 (1) The full amount of tuition;

3 (2) The general fees; and

4 (3) Up to fifty percent of the book cost.

5 9. Missouri public community colleges, vocational or
6 technical schools, state technical colleges, and two-year private
7 vocational or technical schools shall verify, prior to payment,
8 for each student intending to participate in the program at their
9 institution that:

10 (1) By the end of the first semester of the student's
11 participation:

12 (a) Verification of student eligibility has been received
13 from the high school from which the student graduated;

14 (b) The eligible student is enrolled as a full-time
15 student;

16 (c) A good faith effort has been made to secure all
17 available postsecondary student financial assistance funds; and

18 (d) After all available postsecondary student financial
19 assistance funds are applied, the student shall receive financial
20 incentive funds. The amount of funds shall depend on the
21 remaining costs of tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent
22 of the book cost to attend that institution, subject to
23 appropriation; and

24 (2) During the second and subsequent semesters of the
25 student's participation:

26 (a) The eligible student continues to be enrolled as a
27 full-time student;

28 (b) Good faith efforts continue to be made to secure all
29 available postsecondary student financial assistance funds;

30 (c) The student has earned and maintains a grade point
31 average of two and five-tenths points or higher on a four-point
32 scale, or its equivalent on another scale; and

33 (d) After all other available postsecondary student
34 financial assistance funds are applied, the student shall receive
35 financial incentive funds. The amount of funds shall be subject
36 to appropriation and shall depend on the remaining costs of
37 tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent of the book cost

1 to attend that institution.

2 [8.] 10. The commissioner of education shall develop a
3 procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the scholarship
4 program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be
5 conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to
6 the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of
7 the senate.

8 [9.] 11. For a two-year private vocational or technical
9 school to obtain reimbursements under subsection [7] 3 of this
10 section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

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

28
29 Further amend said title, enacting clause and intersectional
30 references accordingly.