

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 827, Page 1, Section A, Line 4, by
2 inserting after all of said section and line the following:

3
4 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and
5 secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of
6 education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that
7 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
31 shall detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and
32 the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline
33 counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon
34 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and shall contain
35 procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools
36 receiving program grants.

Standing Action Taken _____ Date _____

Select Action Taken _____ Date _____

3. Any nonpublic school in this state may apply to the state board of education for certification that it meets the requirements of this section subject to the same criteria as public high schools. Every nonpublic school that applies and has met the requirements of this section shall have its students eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection 8 of this section on an equal basis to students who graduate from public schools that meet the requirements of this section. Any nonpublic school that applies shall not be eligible for any grants under this section. Students of certified nonpublic schools shall be eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection 8 of this section so long as they meet the other requirements of such subsection. For purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, the nonpublic school shall be included in the partnership plan developed by the public school district in which the nonpublic school is located. For purposes of subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section, the nonpublic school shall establish measurable performance standards for the goals of the program for every school and grade level over which the nonpublic school maintains control.

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

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

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

[6.] 7. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1, 2, and [4] 5 of this section shall be funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection [7] 8 of this section.

[7.] 8. The department of higher education shall, by rule, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school or within the limits established in subsection [9] 10 of this section for any two-year private vocational or technical school for any student:

(1) Who has attended a [public] high school in the state for at least three years immediately

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

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

9 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule of
10 the department of higher education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by
11 this subsection as determined by rule and regulation of the department; and

12 (4) Who is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

13 [8.] 9. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the
14 effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually
15 with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro
16 tempore of the senate.

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

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

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

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

27 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical school
28 shall not violate the provisions of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the Missouri
29 Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution."; and
30

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