

House \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill Nos. 1777, 2203, 2059 & 2502, Page 1,  
2 Section A, Line 3, by inserting after all of the 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:

12 (a) Earn credits toward any type of college degree while in high school; or

13 (b) Proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary vocational or  
14 technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice of local business  
28 persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary vocational and  
29 technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board of education. The  
30 plan shall specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to update the plan in order to  
2 best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall  
3 detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and the  
4 intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline  
5 counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon  
6 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and shall contain  
7 procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools  
8 receiving program grants.

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

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

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

32 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by  
33 this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by August  
34 first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the  
35 superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and  
36 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and encourage  
37 efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of other law to the  
38 contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver,  
39 with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.

1 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for  
2 the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the authority of the state  
3 board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and  
4 such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such  
5 waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district unless such other  
6 schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as  
7 outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails  
8 to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in  
9 subsection 2 of this section.

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

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

17 (1) Who has attended a high school in the state for at least two years that meets the  
18 requirements of subsection 2 of this section and who has graduated from such a school; except that,  
19 students who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependents of retired  
20 military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active  
21 duty who meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the  
22 requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the two-year attendance  
23 requirement of this subdivision; and

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

26 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school or through the semester  
27 immediately before taking the course for which reimbursement is sought as determined by rule of  
28 the department of higher education and workforce development, and other requirements for the  
29 reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and regulation of the  
30 department; and

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

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

36 10. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under  
37 subsection 8 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.

12 11. For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, no eligible student shall be  
13 disqualified from receiving a grant under this section solely because the eligible student has pled  
14 guilty to or been convicted of no more than two misdemeanor offenses of:

15 (1) Possession of marijuana under section 579.015 by a person under twenty-one years of  
16 age; or

17 (2) Unlawful possession of alcohol by a minor under section 311.325."; and  
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19 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
20 accordingly.