

# **A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**Braymer C-4 School District**



**Student/Parent Handbook  
2023-2024**

# Board Adopted May 14, 2012

## Purpose of this Handbook

In an effort to make college or vocational education available to every Missouri high school graduate, the Missouri General Assembly established the A+ Schools Program as part of the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993.

Graduates of designated A+ schools who successfully complete the requirements of the program may be eligible to receive two years of free tuition to a designated public community college, vocational or technical institution in Missouri.

**All funds are subject to Missouri General Assembly allocating monies for the A+ Program.**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide students, parents and staff with information about the guidelines and policies of the A+ Program in the Braymer C-4 School District. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that designation is achieved and maintained. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to read, understand and comply with program requirements.

Any questions about this handbook or the A+ Schools Program should be directed to Mrs. Bailey O'Dell, A+ Schools Coordinator, at (660) 645-2284.

This manual contains sample forms for the A+ Program. Students may obtain copies of forms as needed from Mrs. Bailey O'Dell, A+ Coordinator.

Students may obtain the Intent to Access Tuition Benefits Form during the second semester of their senior year; it should be completed and returned to the Counselor's Office. Students will utilize the Citizenship & Attendance Appeal Form(s) only if they do not meet the citizenship or attendance requirements as stated in this handbook by their senior year – please read related pages in this manual.

## Goals of the A+ Program

1. All students will graduate from high school.
2. All students will complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified and measurable learner expectations.
3. All students will proceed from high school graduation to a traditional college or post-secondary vocational or technical school, or high wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.

## Participation Requirements

🌐 The high school from which the student graduates must meet and maintain all the requirements for A+ school designation.

🌐 State funding must be available. As with any State program, the A+ Schools Program is subject to the political process of sustaining and maintaining a budget.

🌐 The student must meet all the criteria outlined in the A+ Schools Program and the program agreement in which the student and parent/guardian will sign.

## **Eligibility**

**To be eligible for the A+ tuition benefit, students must be certified by the high school. To qualify for certification, students must sign an A+ agreement and successfully complete the following requirements:**

- 📖 Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or lawfully present in the U.S.
- 📖 Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- 📖 Attend an A+ designated school for three years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to graduation.
- 📖 Graduate with an unweighted, unrounded cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- 📖 Graduate with a minimum 95% ADA (Average Daily Attendance) record over 8 semesters.
- 📖 Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring to younger students in the district, of which up to 25% may include job shadowing.
- 📖 Beginning with the class of 2015, students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End-of-Course Exam. (This requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better.)
- 📖 Model good citizenship at school and in the community.
- 📖 Avoid the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.
- 📖 Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

## **To Maintain Eligibility:**

- 📖 Enroll and attend a Missouri community college or post-secondary vocational/technical school on a full-time basis and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- 📖 Be seeking a degree at the institution in which you are enrolled.
- 📖 Not be pursuing a degree or certificate in theology or divinity
- 📖 Make a good faith effort to secure all available federal financial aid by completing the FAFSA EACH academic year. If you are attending an institution that does not participate in Title IV programs, you must complete the FAFSA4caster, which is a tool for estimating your level of need for federal financial aid.

## **A+ Program Enrollment**

A+ participation is voluntary. Students may participate in the program by completing and returning an A+ Agreement to the A+ Coordinator. Agreements are available from the A+ Coordinator.

Students should try to begin their participation in the A+ Program at the beginning of their freshman year. Enrolling in the program early allows students and parents to focus on the goals of the program.

A file of active and inactive A+ Program Agreements is maintained in the A+ Coordinator's office.

There is no specific deadline for enrolling in the A+ Program. A student can enroll at any time as long as the student realizes that he/she must complete all program requirements, including the 50 hours of tutoring and mentoring.

## **Notification of A+ Status**

The A+ Coordinator will review all records of graduating A+ students and will have a mandatory A+ Senior Review with all A+ seniors. All A+ documentation must be turned in to the A+ Coordinator no later than May 1st. After graduation, the names of eligible students will be submitted to the Principal and Counselor as well as to the A+ Office. Students and parents will be notified and the student's transcript will reflect A+ status.

Student A+ status letters will be sent to the parents shortly after the end of each semester.

## **Tuition Benefits**

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the program are eligible to receive tuition reimbursement for 105% of the hours required for the program in which the student is currently enrolled at a designated community college or vocational/technical (state funded) school in Missouri.

Early graduation is discouraged. A+ participants who elect to graduate early are not eligible to access A+ tuition benefits until their respective class has graduated. To maintain eligibility (at college) students must be enrolled as full-time students as defined by the post-secondary institution, enrolled in an approved program, and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Participants are under no obligation to use the A+ tuition incentive. The tuition incentive is earned by each individual and is not transferable to any other student.

Receipt of private scholarships will not affect any student's eligibility to participate in the A+ program.

A "good faith" attempt has been made when the student has completed and filed a copy of the FAFSA with the college or vocational/technical institution.

Financial need is not a factor in determining student eligibility for the A+ tuition incentive. Participants will have up to four years (from the date of high school graduation) to access the A+ tuition incentive.

State funding must be available. As with any state program, the A+ Schools Program is subject to the political process of sustaining and maintaining a budget.

## **Grade Point Requirement**

Eligible participants must graduate with a cumulative minimum unweighted, unrounded grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grade scale. For purposes of this program, grade point average represents the actual figure and is not rounded (2.499 is not 2.5).

It is the responsibility of each participant to closely monitor his/her grade point average. Final determination of A+ eligibility cannot be made until an A+ participant graduates and his/her final GPA is calculated.

## **Attendance**

A+ participants are expected to attend school regularly. A+ participants must graduate with a minimum cumulative (grades 9-12) attendance rate of 95%. The A+ Program makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

Attendance is based upon Monday through Friday when school is in regular session. Only the days and times, which are calculated for Average Daily Attendance (ADA), will be used to determine the 95% attendance requirement. Attendance is calculated in minutes therefore coming to school late will affect a student's overall attendance percentage.

The A+ attendance policy allows relief in cases where the absence was beyond the control of the A+ participant. Requests for Attendance Waivers must be filed in accordance with the established policy guidelines. Each A+ participant should read and understand the attendance policy.

It is the responsibility of each A+ participant to closely monitor his/her attendance. Semester updates will be mailed to the homes of A+ participants.

## **Attendance Waiver Guidelines**

Documentation to support a request for an A+ attendance waiver must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator's Office no later than May 1st of the current calendar year. Documentation must include specific dates accompanied by the signature(s) of the appropriate person(s).

<b>Reason for Absence:</b>	<b>Documentation Required:</b>
Hospitalization/Chronic Health Problems Catastrophic Illness/Injury to Student	Physician's Letter
Court Appearance	Court Letter
Funeral	Parent Letter and a Copy of Death Certificate, Obituary, or Memorial Pamphlet
Religious Holiday	Minister's Letter
Personal/Family Calamity	Parent and School Counselor's Letter

**Attendance Waivers will NOT be granted for the following:**

- ☞ Truancy/Skipping
- ☞ Suspension
- ☞ Personal/Family Vacation
- ☞ Routine Doctor Visits
- ☞ Dentist or Orthodontist Visits
- ☞ Transportation (unless late bus)
- ☞ Employment or Work Reasons

A+ attendance requirements are not to be confused with the general attendance requirements as printed in the Braymer High School Handbook.

**Attendance Appeals**

Students in the A+ Program who feel they have been declared ineligible unfairly may appeal to the A+ School Appeals Committee. In cases of appeal, the student/parent/guardian must notify the A+ School Coordinator in writing of his/her intent to appeal within 10 days of receiving an ineligibility letter.

An A+ Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal within 10 days of receiving a written request and return its decision to the student in writing. The A+ Schools Appeals Committee will consist of the following individuals: principal in charge of the A+ Schools Program, the A+ school coordinator, and a high school teacher. The principal from the school of the student who is appealing will facilitate the appeal. Appeals will be considered at semester or the end of the school year when the student is declared ineligible.

After the Appeals Committee reaches a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify the parents by letter within five calendar days.

Students may appeal the A+ Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent.

## **A+ Tutoring**

A+ participants must perform a minimum total of 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring. For purposes of the program, community service is not considered to be an acceptable substitute for tutoring.

Tutoring must be performed in the Braymer C-4 School District building in an approved program. Tutoring must be performed with Braymer public school students.

Tutoring time must be documented on the official A+ Tutoring Log. These logs are available in the A+ Coordinator's office. No other record will be accepted. All tutoring logs should be turned in at the end of each quarter.

Tutoring guidelines for the A+ Program need to be picked up in the A+ Coordinator's office. The participant is responsible for maintaining his/her tutoring log accurately, obtaining the necessary signatures and for submitting the log to the A+ Coordinator in a timely manner. No credit will be awarded for logs that are misplaced or stolen – **no exceptions**.

The student is allowed to count 25% (12.5 hours) of student tutoring hours from job shadowing. For a student to use job shadowing hours as part of their tutoring hours, they must complete the job shadowing verification form and turn it into the A+ Coordinator's office.

## **Illegal Drugs/Alcohol**

Any involvement with illegal drugs or alcohol (use, manufacture, possession, transport, distribution, under the influence, or sale) at school or in the community will result in the immediate and permanent removal of the participant from the A+ program. An A+ student will not possess, sell, transfer, distribute, or use any drug (1) on school property, (2) at school events or activities away from campus, or (3) off-campus during non-school or school hours. In other words, drug possession, sale, transfer, distribution or use is not permitted regardless of location and time of day. For purposes of this rule, the term "drug" includes any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage, illegally possessed prescription drug, controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia.

Involvement will have been established when the A+ student has a civil conviction of, suspension from school, or pleads guilty to the use, manufacture, possession, transport, distribution, under the influence, or sale of a controlled substance, including alcohol.

## **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

A good faith effort has been made when the participant and his/her parents have completed and filed the FAFSA with the U.S. Government. The information found on the FAFSA is required by post-secondary institutions to complete the enrollment process.

FAFSA forms are available online (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>) in October of the year of graduation. Students must bring/email a copy of the first page of their Student Aid Report (SAR) to the A+ Coordinator no later than April 1st of their graduation year.

## Accessing Tuition Benefits

It is critical to the integrity of the A+ Program that A+ participants pay strict attention to all the guidelines, rules and policies that govern the program.

Some control is given to local school districts in establishing policy and administering the A+ Program. Most of the rules governing the administration of the program are found in state statutes and are not subject to local amendment.

**The tuition benefits are not automatically bestowed on A+ participants who have successfully completed the A+ requirements. To be eligible for tuition benefits, the following guidelines must be followed:**

1. Graduating A+ participants must let the A+ Coordinator know if they plan to access A+ benefits.
2. The A+ Coordinator will verify the status of each A+ participant and certify each A+ participant who is eligible for A+ tuition benefits.
3. A+ participants will be notified, in writing, as to the approval or denial of their eligibility to receive A+ tuition benefits. If a participant is denied eligibility, the participant will be provided with the reason for the denial.
4. The names and social security numbers of the A+ graduates eligible for tuition benefits will be forwarded to the appropriate local and state agencies.

A+ eligible graduates must inform the post-secondary institutions to which they have made application of their intent to use the tuition benefits. The institution will prepare the necessary paperwork and bill the State of Missouri.



## **Braymer High School** **A+ Schools Program Agreement**

BHS students who graduate with A+ status may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of tuition while attending a Missouri public community college or vocational/technical school on a full-time basis. The A+ program may provide these educational incentives provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature. This funding may be for the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and is subject to legislative appropriation. **Eligible A+ students must meet ALL of the requirements below:**

1. Sign an A+ Program Agreement at least one semester prior to graduation.
2. Attend a designated A+ high school for three (3) consecutive years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to high school graduation.
3. Graduate from a designated A+ high school with an unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
4. Graduate with a minimum cumulative 95% ADA (Average Daily Attendance) record over a four year period.
5. Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
6. Perform and document fifty (50) hours of unpaid district tutoring or mentoring, coordinated by the BHS A+ Coordinator.
7. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the student tutoring hours may be from job shadowing.
8. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.
9. Apply for non-payback scholarships by completing a FAFSA (free application for federal students aid).

**To maintain eligibility, participants must:**

1. Attend a designated Missouri public community college or vocational-technical school and
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

In addition to the preceding eligibility requirements, the Missouri Department of Higher Education may impose additional requirements prior to the distribution of A+ funds. The Baymer C-4 School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. This policy regards admission/access to treatment/employment in its programs and activities.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

The student and parent/guardian must sign this A+ Schools Program Agreement before the student will be considered for participation in the A+ Schools Program. By signing this agreement the student and parent/guardian certify that they have read, understand and agree to the A+ Guidelines listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature      Date

**Braymer C-4 School District  
A+ Program  
Tutoring/Mentoring Agreement**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a student enrolled in the A+ School Tutoring Program, I accept the responsibility to complete the following steps to become an approved A+ tutor/mentor in the Braymer C-4 School District:

- Submit a completed agreement, parent permission slip.
- Complete a Tutoring/Mentoring Training before I am assigned my first task.
- Obtain proper approval for tutoring activities.
- Spend 50 hours as a volunteer tutor/mentor at a school approved site.
- Maintain a record of tutoring hours.
- Notify the supervising teacher if unable to fulfill an assigned task.
- Wear clothing appropriate to the activity.
- Work with a positive attitude and willingly assume assigned tasks.
- Treat the student and site supervisor with respect.
- Be sensitive to the needs of the student to which I am assigned.
- Respect the principle of confidentiality.
- Report any concerns to the supervising teacher.

I agree to participate and abide by the guidelines set up for the A+ tutoring/mentoring program. I understand the important role that good attendance and scholastic achievement play in this program and that I will be held accountable for my actions. I further understand that I can be removed at any time from this tutoring/mentoring opportunity should my attendance or behavior not meet with school policy and/or A+ Schools requirements.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am responsible for my student's transportation to and from tutoring/mentoring activities. I hereby give permission and support to my student to participate in the Braymer A+ School Tutoring/Mentoring Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct any questions to Mrs. O'Dell, A+ Schools Program Coordinator.

## Braymer A+ Program Tutoring Log

All tutoring hours must be documented on this log and verified by the signature of the supervising teacher. All tutoring must be:

- Part of an approved program under the direct supervision of a certificated Braymer School staff member. Must be approved by A+ Coordinator before beginning.
- Performed in the building of the Braymer C-4 School District.
- Performed with Braymer C-4 public school students.

Tutor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Activity Description	Time Start	Time End	Total Time	Teacher's Signature	Tutoring Location

**Total Minutes/60 = Total Hours**

**\*\*I understand that it is my responsibility to log my tutoring hours each time I tutor and turn them in to the A+ Coordinator at the end of each semester. I further understand that I can be removed at any time from this tutoring opportunity should my attendance or behavior not meet with school policy and/or A+ Schools requirements.**



**Braymer C-4 School District**  
**A+ Schools Program Attendance Appeal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ (required by the State of Missouri)

Current G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Absences:

Grade 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Absences: grades 9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

All information, including social security number, must be provided. Please print or type the information. Attach a list of specific date(s), the reason for the absence, the appropriate documentation and signature along with this form. **\*Failure to return this appeal by the following deadline may jeopardize your A+ eligibility.**

Return to the A+ Coordinator by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Braymer C-4 School District** **A+ Program Citizenship Policy**

### **Braymer C-4 School District Citizenship Standards:**

Participation in the A+ program is a privilege and not a right; therefore, the Braymer School District requires students to adhere to standards of behavior, which will bring credit to students, the A+ program, the school, and the community. Students who represent the Braymer School District must demonstrate good citizenship and conduct at all times. The Braymer School District requires student behavior to be in compliance with school board policy, with the school's Student Handbook Regulations, and public laws. Behavior not in compliance with these policies may result in the student's loss of eligibility from the A+ program.

### **I. Citizenship Requirements for the A+ Program**

- A. Students who sign a contract to participate in the A+ program are to maintain good citizenship while enrolled in high school.
- B. Students who violate the district's Alcohol/Drug policy are subject to and will automatically be removed from the A+ incentive program.
- C. Students who are convicted of a felony will not qualify.
- D. Students who commit other violations which may involve violent behavior, insubordination, failure to follow directions, use of inappropriate language, smoking, dishonesty, etc., which results in a suspension may jeopardize their A+ status and be subject to a review by the principal and the A+ Citizenship Committee.
  - 1. The A+ Citizenship Committee will consist of the following:
    - ☞ Principal
    - ☞ A+ Coordinator
    - ☞ Teacher
  - 2. At the end of each semester, student discipline records will be reviewed. Student discipline records will be maintained throughout their four years of high school. In school and out of school suspension days are accumulative over the 4 years a student attends high school. Citizenship/discipline violations to be reviewed that may jeopardize a student's A+ status include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **Suspensions (In-School)**

Any student who receives discipline referrals which result in an accumulation of 4 days of in-school suspension will be placed on probation and receive a written notice. An additional accumulation of 3 days of in-school suspension (total of 7) will result in immediate removal from the A+ financial program.

#### **Suspensions (Out-of-School)**

Any student who receives 3 days of out-of-school suspension will be placed on probation and will receive a written notice. A student who receives an additional 3 days of out-of school suspension (total of 6) will be removed from the program.

## **AUTOMATIC INELIGIBILITY**

In compliance with regulations of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education A+ Program, a student will be removed immediately from the A+ Schools financial assistance program and thus forfeit the opportunity to receive funds through this program for any of the following:

### **Drugs/Alcohol/Substance Abuse**

Violation of the Braymer C-4 District Drug/Alcohol/Substance Abuse policy outlined in the Board Policy.

An A+ student will not possess, sell, transfer, distribute, or use any drug (1) on school property, (2) at school events or activities away from campus, or (3) off-campus during non-school or school hours. In other words, drug possession, sale, transfer, distribution or use is not permitted regardless of location and time of day. For purposes of this rule, the term “drug” includes any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage, illegally possessed prescription drug, controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.

Involvement will have been established when the A+ student has a civil conviction of, suspension from school, or pleads guilty to the use, manufacture, possession, transport, distribution, under the influence, or sale of a controlled substance, including alcohol.

### **Violation of Local, State, or Federal Criminal Laws**

Conviction/or have plead guilty to a felony

Criminal activity which is formally reported to the schools by the juvenile officer as defined by the Safe Schools Act.

### **Convictions include:**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ☞ First and second degree murder  | ☞ Distribution of drugs to a minor           |
| ☞ Kidnapping                      | ☞ First degree arson                         |
| ☞ First and second degree assault | ☞ Voluntary/involuntary manslaughter         |
| ☞ Forcible rape and sodomy        | ☞ Sexual assault                             |
| ☞ First degree burglary           | ☞ Felonious restraint                        |
| ☞ Robbery                         | ☞ Property damage, first degree              |
| ☞ Distribution of drugs           | ☞ Possession of a weapon (under Ch 571 RSMo) |

## **II. Citizenship Review Process**

- A. Upon school suspension, students and their parents will be notified of the student's jeopardized A+ status.
- B. The Principal will provide disciplinary information and the status of contracted students to the A+ Coordinator on a semester basis. The updated information will be used to assess the citizenship requirement of each student in the Braymer A+ School Tuition Reimbursement Program.

### **Committee will respond in one of the following ways:**

- 1. A statement will be issued to the student and parents warning them that any referrals related to the above Section I in the following semester will result in an immediate probation status. They will be informed that the status will be reviewed at the end of the semester and a decision made by the Citizenship Committee about whether the student loses eligibility in the program or is placed on probation. If students are identified by administration as chronically disruptive, they will be removed from the program. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, those listed in section I.
- 2. The student may be removed from the program. If the review team elects to remove a student from the program, the student has the right to appeal first to the building principal, then to the superintendent, and finally to the school board. This appeal may be made no later than one month following removal from the program. Seniors must appeal by May 1 regardless of when they lost eligibility from the program.

**Braymer C-4 School District**  
**Citizenship Appeal Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your status as an A+ student is in jeopardy as a result of violating the citizenship policy. The citizenship review team has examined your discipline record and finds that additional information is needed in order to determine your future eligibility for the program and the incentive.

**With this form, attach a written explanation as to why you feel you should still receive the A+ incentive. In your explanation you should address the following points:**

- **Describe the offense(s) for which you were suspended.**
- **What will you and what have you done to avoid being in trouble? (Be specific)**
- **Why should you be allowed to remain in the A+ program?**

Return the appeal form and the written explanation to the A+ Coordinator by \_\_\_\_\_. After reviewing your appeal, the committee will determine whether to place you on probation or hold a parent conference to determine your status in the program. **Failure to return this appeal by the deadline will result in your loss of eligibility in the A+ Program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Braymer C-4 School District**  
**A+ Program**  
**Final Senior Appeal Policy**

In order to qualify for the A+ incentive, a student must meet the following requirements at graduation:

1. 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
2. 95 percent attendance average over the four years.
3. Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam ( this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
4. 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring in a district approved program, 25% of the hours may be from job shadowing.
5. Good citizenship standards, such as refraining from use of drugs/alcohol.
6. Attend an A+ designated school for the final 3 years of high school.
7. Submission of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

By the date of graduation, senior students will be informed by the building A+ Coordinator as to whether they are eligible to receive the incentive according to the above qualifications. Students may appeal the decision of the A+ Coordinator if they believe extraordinary circumstances entitle them to the incentive, even though the attendance and citizenship qualifications have not been met.

The appeal will be received as follows:

- Step One:** Review by the A+ Coordinator
- Step Two:** Review by the High School Principal.
- Step Three:** Review by the Superintendent.

In order to appeal attendance or citizenship, the student must submit, in writing, an explanation of the extraordinary circumstances and the reasons why the appeal to receive the A+ incentive should be granted along with the attendance and/or citizenship appeal form(s). All appeals must be received by the tenth (10) day following the date of graduation of the student's senior year. Students will be informed promptly about the results of their appeals after each step described above. Additional information and a conference may be requested at any time by the review team or Superintendent.

**Braymer C-4**  
**Intent to Access A+ Tuition Benefits**

NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

My signature indicates that I have met the requirements of the Braymer C-4 A+ School Program and that I intend to access the A+ tuition benefits that I earned by:

- Attending an A+ school for three consecutive years (grades 10, 11, 12) prior to graduation
- Graduating with a minimum, unweighted, unrounded cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Graduating with a minimum attendance rate of 95% over 4 years
- Performing a minimum of 50 hours unpaid tutoring/mentoring, 25% of hours may be used from job shadowing
- Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
- Maintaining a record of good citizenship
- Avoiding the use of illegal drugs and alcohol
- Completing and submitting a FAFSA

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have reviewed the A+ participant's records and status and have APPROVED/ DISAPPROVED the participant's request for access to A+ tuition benefits.

APPROVED: The appropriate state and local agencies will be notified of the A+ participant's eligibility for tuition benefits.

DISAPPROVED: The A+ participant was denied access to A+ benefits for the following reasons(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does signing the A+ Agreement mean?**

By signing and submitting the A+ agreement, students and their parents are simply indicating an interest in the students' participation in the A+ Program and that they understand the requirements that qualify the students for that program. When an agreement has been signed by all parties and returned, a file will be established for that student and will be located in the A+ Coordinator's office. This file denotes the student's active participation in the A+ Schools Program and will contain all pertinent information relative to the student's eligibility for A+ funds.

### **Does participating in the A+ program restrict a student's choices?**

Participating in the A+ Program DOES NOT in any way restrict a student's educational choices. The A+ Schools Program is designed to provide greater opportunities for students. Signing up will not restrict the options available to a student while in high school or upon graduating from high school.

### **What if an A+ participant decides to attend a four-year college or university?**

There are no repercussions for participating in the A+ Program and completing the student eligibility requirements. Many students will develop plans to attend a four-year college or university following high school. The A+ Schools Scholarship incentive MAY NOT be applied to costs associated with a four-year college or university. Students eligible for A+ tuition benefits may choose to attend a community college for two years, earn an Associates Degree, or simply earn basic credit hours; then transfer those credits to a four-year college/university.

If for whatever reason an A+ eligible student should withdraw from the four-year institution with at least a 2.5 GPA he/she could enroll at a Missouri public community college or vocational technical school and be eligible for A+ tuition benefits. A+ tuition benefits are available to students for up to four years after the date of their graduation from high school, provided state funds are appropriated by the legislature.

### **What if an A+ participant decides not to attend a community college or vocational or technical school?**

Participation in the A+ Program in no way restricts a student's post high school career or educational opportunities. It is simply a funding resource for post secondary education should the student choose to utilize it. A student who participates in the A+ Program, is NOT required to attend a community college or vocational or technical school.

### **Does participating in the A+ Program guarantee that students will receive the tuition benefits?**

There are at least three factors that will impact the availability of tuition benefits to a particular student. First, the high school from which the student graduates must meet and maintain all the requirements for A+ Schools designation. Second, State funding must be available. Third, the student must meet all the criteria outlined in the A+ Schools Program and the program agreement, which the student signed.

### **Does a student qualify for A+ tuition benefits if his/her average daily attendance is 94.8 or his/her grade point average is 2.47 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation?**

No – The A+ Schools Program does not permit rounding up of GPA percentage. The average daily attendance rate must be figured over a four-year period and must be a solid 95%.

# **Student/Parent Signature Page for BHS A+ Schools Program Handbook**

I acknowledge I have received a paper or electronic copy of the Braymer C-4 A+ Schools Program Handbook, and I am aware there is also an electronic version of this handbook on the district website ([www.braymerbobcats.org](http://www.braymerbobcats.org)).

I, the undersigned, have received, read, studied, and understand ALL contents of the Braymer C-4 A+ Schools Program Handbook including the A+ Program Citizenship Policy. I understand that participation in the A+ Schools Program is voluntary, and I further understand the eligibility criteria of the A+ Schools Program.

This document is an attempt to cover basic guidelines and procedures of the Braymer C-4 A+ Schools Program. While we have made an effort to cover all areas, no document can speak to all situations. The contents in this handbook are subject to change.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All A+ participants must sign and return this page to Mrs. Bailey O'Dell, A+ Coordinator.**

**Any student who does not have this paper and the A+ Schools Program Agreement returned with proper signatures will be unable to participate in the A+ Schools Program.**