

Dear Seniors and Parents,

We know you must all have so many questions and worries about a variety of things right now. We are thinking of you all and praying for you. WSD remains committed to caring for our students and families. Please let us know if you are struggling in any way or need assistance.

Among the other concerns that you may be navigating right now, we know that many of you have questions about how the school closures impact your eligibility for the A+ Program. We recently received communication from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD), which is the government body that oversees the Missouri A+ Program. You can read the memo [HERE](#).

The Wentzville School District Administrative Office has worked with the A+ Coordinators at all three high schools to develop a plan to help our seniors complete the program and be eligible for the A+ Scholarship. Please read the entire message; there is a lot of important information that you need to be aware of. Below are the original requirements of the A+ Program in **bold type**, and then in **red**, the new updated procedures that we will be following:

- **Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen, or lawfully present in the U.S.**
 - No changes to this requirement
- **Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.**
 - No changes to this requirement (if you are missing this form, the A+ Coordinator will make sure to send one to you to be signed).
- **Attend a designated A+ high school for 2 years prior to graduation.**
 - No changes to this requirement.
- **Graduate with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. (non-weighted)**
 - DHEWD recognizes that in some cases, the school closures across the state *could* have a negative impact on grades. Therefore, students who have obtained a cumulative non-weighted GPA of 2.5 or higher at the end of EITHER their 7th semester or their 8th semester will meet this criterion.
- **Have at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9-12.**
 - No changes to this requirement. The school closure will not negatively impact your attendance percentage.
 - If you are below 95% attendance, and your attendance was negatively affected by either a medical condition, serious illness/injury/surgery, or a mental health diagnosis, you **MAY** be eligible to appeal your attendance. Please communicate with your school's A+ Coordinator to discuss the requirements to appeal your attendance.
- **Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring in the Wentzville district with a Wentzville employee, of which 25% may include job shadowing. The student must attend an A+ Tutor Training before earning A+ hours.**
 - The number of required tutoring/mentoring/job shadowing hours has been reduced from 50 to 25 hours.
 - If you have already completed 25 or more hours, you have met this requirement.
 - If you have **NOT** yet completed all 25 hours, we will communicate with you about ways to complete your hours. This communication will come **AFTER** we have more information about how long school will be closed, and will be based on CDC and Health

Department recommendations on social distancing. AT THIS TIME, WSD WANTS TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING HOME. PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR HOURS RIGHT NOW.

- Completion of hours is only available to students that have already been trained. There will be no further trainings offered to seniors this school year.
- **Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol.**
 - No changes to this requirement.
- **Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra 1 End of Course Exam or a higher level DESE approved End of Course Exam in the field of mathematics.**
 - Missouri Department of Higher Education is working with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to discuss this requirement. We do not have a definitive answer yet.
 - If this requirement remains in effect, we want you to know how you can meet this criterion:
 - We do know that the DESE has canceled EOCs for 2020. So, you will NOT be able to retake the EOC to meet this requirement.
 - The April ACT has also been canceled. Currently, both the June and July ACT test dates are still available. Students who did not obtain a “Proficient” or “Advanced” on the Algebra I EOC can meet this requirement by obtaining a qualifying math subscore on the ACT:
 - Unweighted GPA of 2.5-2.79 needs a 17 ACT math subscore
 - Unweighted GPA of 2.8-2.99 needs a 16 ACT math subscore
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher needs a 15 ACT math subscore
 - Once we have guidance on this requirement from the state, we will communicate it to you.
- **All documentation must be submitted to the A+ Coordinator by May 1st of senior year.**
 - This requirement will be affected by how long schools will be closed.
 - If school resumes at any time prior to graduation, we will communicate the new deadline, as well as the opportunities that will be available to complete any remaining hours.
 - If school does not resume prior to graduation, we will communicate what options you will have to complete your hours.
 - AGAIN, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO WORK ON ANY REMAINING HOURS RIGHT NOW. We will work with you to discuss options for hours and deadlines once we know more.

**IMPORTANT: Many of you have some completed hours that you have not turned in yet. If you have a time sheet that still needs to be turned in, please email it to your A+ Coordinator ASAP. If you don't have a scanner, you can take a picture of your time sheet, and email that picture. If your timesheet is at the elementary school, please rest assured that you will eventually be able to obtain it. In the meantime, it would be VERY helpful if you could email your A+ Coordinator with an estimate of how many hours are on the time sheet and which building your time sheet is at.

We look forward to seeing you all again. Take care of yourselves, stay healthy and safe. And, if you need anything, please let us know.