

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2075

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON, SHELTON, MOORE, WILSON (42), HAYWOOD,
CURLS, SANDERS BROOKS (Co-sponsors), GREEN (15) AND BLAND.

Read 1st time February 27, 2002, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

3787L.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.545, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the A+ schools program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 160.545, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.545, to read as follows:

160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

(1) All students be graduated from school;

(2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations; and

(3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary vocational or technical school or high wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

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

(1) Establish measurable district-wide performance standards for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

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

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

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

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

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

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

43 4. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized
44 by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by
45 August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present
46 a plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver
47 of rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and
48 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of
49 other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide
50 a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section
51 160.257 in the school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
52 plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related

53 to the authority of the state board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision
54 (9) of section 161.092, RSMo, and such other rules and regulations as determined by the
55 commissioner of education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other
56 schools in the school district unless such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection.
57 However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on June
58 thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet the requirements for the approval
59 of the grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2 of this section.

60 5. Within the amount appropriated for the program, in addition to the grants to public
61 schools authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this section, the commissioner of education shall, by
62 rule and regulation of the state board of education and with the advice of the coordinating board
63 for higher education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books
64 and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school for any student:

65 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately
66 prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section; and

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

69 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule
70 of the state board of education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this
71 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.

72 6. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the
73 effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted
74 annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and
75 president pro tempore of the senate.