

# SENATE AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Amend SS/SCS/HCS/House Bill No. 604, Page 1, Section A, Line 5,

2 of said page, by inserting immediately after said line the  
3 following:

4 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the  
5 department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools  
6 Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education.  
7 The program shall consist of grant awards made to public  
8 secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

9 (1) All students be graduated from school;

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

13 (3) All students:

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

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

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

22 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards  
23 for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this

1 section; and

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

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

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

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

1 receiving program grants.

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

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

26 5. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may  
27 determine a local school district variable fund match requirement  
28 in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a  
29 grant under the program. However, no school in any district

1 shall receive a grant under the program unless the district  
2 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program  
3 coordinator, with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the  
4 cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the  
5 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a  
6 grant under the program unless the district makes available  
7 facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified  
8 by rule of the state board of education.

9 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the  
10 approval of the grants authorized by this section and specified  
11 in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school  
12 years, by August first following the third such school year, the  
13 commissioner of education shall present a plan to the  
14 superintendent of the school district in which such school is  
15 located for the waiver of rules and regulations to promote  
16 flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and  
17 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in  
18 the school. The provisions of other law to the contrary  
19 notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall  
20 provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil  
21 testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.  
22 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary  
23 notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for the waiver of  
24 requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the  
25 authority of the state board of education to classify school  
26 districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and such  
27 other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of  
28 education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school  
29 and not other schools in the school district unless such other

1 schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any  
2 waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection  
3 shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the  
4 school fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the  
5 grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2 of  
6 this section.

7 7. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1,  
8 2, and 5 of this section shall be funded with the amount  
9 appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to  
10 reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection 8 or 9 of this  
11 section.

12 8. The department of higher education shall, by rule,  
13 establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of  
14 tuition, books and fees to any public community college or  
15 vocational or technical school or within the limits established  
16 in subsection [10] 11 of this section for any two-year private  
17 vocational or technical school for any student:

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

1 and

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

5 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high  
6 school or through the semester immediately before taking the  
7 course for which reimbursement is sought as determined by rule of  
8 the department of higher education, and other requirements for  
9 the reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by  
10 rule and regulation of the department; and

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

13 9. The department of higher education shall, by rule,  
14 establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of  
15 tuition, and fees for any dual-credit or dual-enrollment course  
16 offered to a student in high school in association with an  
17 institution of higher education or vocational or technical  
18 school, subject to the requirements of subsection 11 of this  
19 section, for any student who meets the requirements established  
20 in subsection 8 of this section immediately before taking the  
21 course for which reimbursement is sought.

22 10. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure  
23 for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this  
24 section. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually with the  
25 results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of  
26 the house, and president pro tempore of the senate.

27 [10.] 11. For a two-year private vocational or technical  
28 school to obtain reimbursements under subsection 8 or 9 of this  
29 section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

13           (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private  
14 vocational or technical school shall not violate the provisions  
15 of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the  
16 Missouri Constitution or the first amendment of the United States  
17 Constitution.

18           12. The department of higher education shall distribute  
19 reimbursements in the following manner:

20           (1) To community college or vocational or technical school  
21 students;

22           (2) After all students from subdivision (1) of this  
23 subsection have been reimbursed, to any dual-credit or dual-  
24 enrollment student on the basis of financial need."; and

25           Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.  
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