

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 205

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ARTHUR.

Pre-filed January 3, 2019, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1233S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.545, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to state funding for college-level classes taken in high school.

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Section A. Section 160.545, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 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
2 elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered
3 by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of grant awards
4 made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

5 (1) All students be graduated from school;

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

8 (3) All students:

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

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

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

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

18 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms,
19 that students must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course

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

20 offered by the school, and any course of studies which will qualify a student for
21 graduation from the school; and

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

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

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

41 3. Any nonpublic school in this state may apply to the state board of
42 education for certification that it meets the requirements of this section subject
43 to the same criteria as public high schools. Every nonpublic school that applies
44 and has met the requirements of this section shall have its students eligible for
45 reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection 8 of this section on
46 an equal basis to students who graduate from public schools that meet the
47 requirements of this section. Any nonpublic school that applies shall not be
48 eligible for any grants under this section. Students of certified nonpublic schools
49 shall be eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection
50 8 of this section so long as they meet the other requirements of such
51 subsection. For purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, the
52 nonpublic school shall be included in the partnership plan developed by the
53 public school district in which the nonpublic school is located. For purposes of
54 subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section, the nonpublic school shall establish
55 measurable performance standards for the goals of the program for every school

56 and grade level over which the nonpublic school maintains control.

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

60 5. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a
61 local school district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or
62 schools in the district to receive a grant under the program. However, no school
63 in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the district
64 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator, with the
65 district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits
66 provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a
67 grant under the program unless the district makes available facilities and
68 services for adult literacy training as specified by rule of the state board of
69 education.

70 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the
71 grants authorized by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for
72 three successive school years, by August first following the third such school year,
73 the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the superintendent of the
74 school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and
75 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance
76 and encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the
77 school. The provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan
78 presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver, with no
79 conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the
80 school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
81 plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on
82 the school related to the authority of the state board of education to classify
83 school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and such other rules
84 and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such
85 waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district
86 unless such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any
87 waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on June
88 thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet the requirements for
89 the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2
90 of this section.

91 7. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1, 2, and 5 of this

92 section shall be funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those
93 funds necessary to reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection 8 **or 9** of
94 this section.

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

100 (1) Who has attended a high school in the state for at least [three] **two**
101 years [prior to graduation] that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this
102 section and who has graduated from such a school; except that, students who are
103 active duty military dependents, and students who are [dependants] **dependents**
104 of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the
105 parent's retirement from active duty[,] who[, in the school year immediately
106 preceding graduation,] meet all other requirements of this subsection and are
107 attending a school that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section
108 shall be exempt from the [three-year] **two-year** attendance requirement of this
109 subdivision; and

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

113 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school **or**
114 **through the semester immediately before taking the course for which**
115 **reimbursement is sought** as determined by rule of the department of higher
116 education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this
117 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of the department; and

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

119 9. **The department of higher education shall, by rule, establish**
120 **a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books, and**
121 **fees for any dual-credit or dual-enrollment course offered to a student**
122 **in high school in association with a public community college or**
123 **vocational or technical school, subject to the requirements of**
124 **subsection 11 of this section, for any student who meets the**
125 **requirements established in subsection 8 of this section immediately**
126 **before taking the course for which reimbursement is sought.**

127 10. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for

128 evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such
129 evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation
130 provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the
131 senate.

132 [10.] 11. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain
133 reimbursements under subsection 8 or 9 of this section, the following
134 requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

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

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