

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 454

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHULL (16).

0929H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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Section A. Section 160.545, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.545, to read as follows: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

5 (1) All students be graduated from school;

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

8 (3) All students:

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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

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

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

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

36 3. Any nonpublic school in this state may apply to the state board of education for
37 certification that it meets the requirements of this section subject to the same criteria as public
38 high schools. Every nonpublic school that applies and has met the requirements of this section
39 shall have its students eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection
40 8 of this section on an equal basis to students who graduate from public schools that meet the
41 requirements of this section. Any nonpublic school that applies shall not be eligible for any
42 grants under this section. Students of certified nonpublic schools shall be eligible for
43 reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection 8 of this section so long as they
44 meet the other requirements of such subsection. For purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection
45 2 of this section, the nonpublic school shall be included in the partnership plan developed by the
46 public school district in which the nonpublic school is located. For purposes of subdivision (1)
47 of subsection 2 of this section, the nonpublic school shall establish measurable performance
48 standards for the goals of the program for every school and grade level over which the nonpublic
49 school maintains control.

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

52 5. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school
53 district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive
54 a grant under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
55 program unless the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator,
56 with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits
57 provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
58 program unless the district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as
59 specified by rule of the state board of education.

60 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized
61 by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by
62 August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present
63 a plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver
64 of rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and
65 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of
66 other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide
67 a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section
68 160.257 in the school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
69 plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related
70 to the authority of the state board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision
71 (9) of section 161.092 and such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner
72 of education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the
73 school district unless such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any
74 waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any
75 school year in which the school fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants
76 authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2 of this section.

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

80 8. The department of higher education shall, by rule, establish a procedure for the
81 reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or
82 vocational or technical school or within the limits established in subsection ~~[+0]~~ **11** of this
83 section for any two-year private vocational or technical school for any student:

84 (1) Who has attended a high school in the state for at least ~~[three]~~ **two** years ~~[prior to~~
85 ~~graduation]~~ that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section ~~[and who has graduated~~
86 ~~from such a school]~~; except that, students who are active duty military dependents~~;~~ and students
87 who are ~~[dependants]~~ **dependents** of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year

88 of the date of the parent's retirement from active duty[;] who[~~, in the school year immediately~~
89 ~~preceding graduation,~~] meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school
90 that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the [~~three-year~~]
91 **two-year** attendance requirement of this subdivision; and

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

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

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

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

106 **10.** The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the
107 effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted
108 annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and
109 president pro tempore of the senate.

110 [~~10.]~~ **11.** For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements
111 under subsection 8 **or 9** of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

115 (2) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be designated as a
116 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

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

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

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