

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 306, Page 1, Section A, Line 2, by
2 inserting after all of said section and line the following:

3
4 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and
5 secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of
6 education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that
7 demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

8 (1) All students be graduated from school;

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

11 (3) All students:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools
2 receiving program grants.

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

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

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

26 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by
27 this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by August
28 first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the
29 superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and
30 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and encourage
31 efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of other law to the
32 contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver,
33 with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.
34 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for
35 the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the authority of the state
36 board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and
37 such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such
38 waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district unless such other
39 schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as
40 outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails
41 to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in
42 subsection 2 of this section.

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

46 8. The department of higher education and workforce development shall, by rule, establish a
47 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community
48 college or vocational or technical school or within the limits established in subsection 11 of this
49 section for any two-year private vocational or technical school for any student:

1 (1) Who has attended a high school in the state for at least two years that meets the
 2 requirements of subsection 2 of this section and who has graduated from such a school; except that,
 3 students who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependents of retired
 4 military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active
 5 duty who meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the
 6 requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the two-year attendance
 7 requirement of this subdivision; and

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

10 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school or through the semester
 11 immediately before taking the course for which reimbursement is sought as determined by rule of
 12 the department of higher education and workforce development, and other requirements for the
 13 reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and regulation of the
 14 department. When determining whether a student has earned a minimal grade average in the 2019-
 15 20 or 2020-21 school years for purposes of this subdivision, the department shall apply the student's
 16 highest available high school grade average so that the student is not adversely affected by any
 17 negative change in the student's academic performance directly caused by the coronavirus named
 18 SARS-CoV-2, the international outbreak of respiratory disease named "coronavirus disease 2019"
 19 and abbreviated as "COVID-19", or any changes in methods of instruction implemented by the
 20 student's school district because of COVID-19. Any rule establishing a requirement that a student
 21 obtain a certain algebra end-of-course examination score or other applicable standardized test score,
 22 as determined by the department, shall not apply to a high school senior graduating in the 2020-21
 23 school year; and

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

25 9. The department of higher education and workforce development shall, by rule, establish a
 26 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, and fees for any dual-credit or dual-
 27 enrollment course offered to a student in high school in association with an institution of higher
 28 education or vocational or technical school, subject to the requirements of subsection 11 of this
 29 section, for any student who meets the requirements established in subsection 8 of this section
 30 immediately before taking the course for which reimbursement is sought.

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

35 11. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under
 36 subsection 8 or 9 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

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

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

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

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

48 12. The department of higher education and workforce development shall distribute
 49 reimbursements in the following manner:

- 1 (1) To community college or vocational or technical school students;
- 2 (2) After all students from subdivision (1) of this subsection have been reimbursed, to any
- 3 dual-credit or dual-enrollment student on the basis of financial need."; and

4
5 Further amend said bill, Page 2, Section 162.720, Line 42, by inserting after all of said section and
6 line the following

7
8 "Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to protect students from adverse impacts
9 to student success in educational and career endeavors caused by COVID-19 and related disruptions
10 in school routines, the repeal and reenactment of section 160.545 of section A of this act is deemed
11 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is
12 hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and the repeal and
13 reenactment of section 160.545 of section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its
14 passage and approval."; and

15
16 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
17 accordingly.