



Dear A+ Scholarship Student:

This notice contains important information about your A+ Scholarship award for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please read it carefully.

A+ Scholarship awards typically cover tuition and general fees at participating community colleges, public vocational-technical schools, and certain private vocational-technical schools. The amount of a student's actual award is affected by several factors, including the number of reimbursable hours in which the student is enrolled; the amount of federal Pell Grant funding the student is eligible to receive; and the total amount of funding the Missouri General Assembly appropriates to, and the Governor approves for, the program. It is this last factor that is at issue for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Historically, the A+ Scholarship Program has been fully funded, meaning the program's appropriation was sufficient to pay all A+ students the maximum amount of tuition and general fees they were eligible to receive. For the 2014-2015 academic year this may not be the case. During the 2014 Legislative session, the General Assembly approved an increase for the A+ Scholarship program. In anticipation of a possible shortfall in state revenue, the Governor has imposed spending restrictions for many areas of the state budget, including the A+ Program. What this means for all A+ students is their total number of reimbursable hours for the 2014-2015 academic year likely will be reduced to ensure the amount awarded does not exceed the amount of funding that is available to the program after the spending restriction is applied. Such a reduction would result in lower award amounts and students would be required to pay the tuition costs for the reduced hours out of pocket or make other financial arrangements. In order to provide the maximum possible time for students and families to prepare for this very real possibility, the reduction is scheduled to occur in the spring 2015 term. Fall 2014 awards will not be affected.

The exact amount of the reduction will be dependent upon two factors – the actual amount expended for the program during the summer and fall 2014 terms, and a positive change in the revenue picture that would enable the Governor to lift the expenditure restriction for the A+ Program. MDHE will announce the exact amount of the reduction later this fall on the A+ page of its website, www.dhe.mo.gov. Your institution's financial aid office also will be informed of the amount of the reduction. The reduction will not be more than four credit hours or 150 clock hours. While we hope the required reduction will be less than four credit hours, you should be prepared to pay the tuition for these maximum hours out-of-pocket or make other financial arrangements to ensure all of your school's charges are covered.

Please be assured that everything possible is being done to address this unfortunate situation as equitably and with the least impact on students. If you have questions, please contact the Missouri Department of Higher Education at (800) 473-6757, option 4, or info@dhe.mo.gov.