



A+ Essentials: A Set of Commitments TM

A+ Essentials revised and adopted by the National A+ Schools Consortium, October 2016.



<p style="text-align: center;">Arts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools the arts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experienced daily through instruction, integration and exposure inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual arts, creative writing and media arts included in curriculum planning and design integrated in all content areas valued as essential to creativity, learning and personal experiences a part of the school's internal and external identity 	<p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing teacher skills in creating effective and engaging instruction ongoing curriculum exploration and planning intentional two-way integration of the arts and other disciplines horizontal and vertical alignment of standards enhanced conceptual connections collaborative development of integrated lessons and units 	<p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Learning Pathways</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools multiple learning pathways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Intelligences (MI) theory and practice brain research and brain-based philosophies a focus on building 21st century and higher order thinking skills creating and balancing learning opportunities that support the whole child intentional opportunities for students, families, community to develop understanding of how people learn 	<p style="text-align: center;">Experiential Learning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools experiential learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates student engagement is grounded in arts-based and hands-on learning experiences provides integrated and authentic connections to real-life application models the creative process and inquiry-based instruction allows for understanding of entry points and differentiated instruction provides multifaceted assessment opportunities
<p style="text-align: center;">Enriched Assessment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools enriched assessment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a reflective practice that is designed for learning inclusive of arts and multiple learning pathways ongoing, integrated, experiential and collaborative used both as a self-assessment tool by teachers and students and to help meet school system requirements instrumental in creating a comprehensive picture of student understanding 	<p style="text-align: center;">Collaboration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools collaboration is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> valued and intentional fostered by administration and faculty prioritized through designated time for classroom and special area teachers to plan together experienced throughout the day and in many ways utilized to build relationships within and outside the school community 	<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the A+ philosophy fosters supportive and shared leadership addresses daily logistics to allow for collaboration provides time, space and resources to support implementation continually maintains a shared vision and develops faculty commitment provides relevant professional development and mentoring is reflected at all levels 	<p style="text-align: center;">Climate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In A+ Schools climate is enhanced through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building collaborative skills that create an environment of respect and support developing a creative community that is fun and engaging for teachers and students focusing on lifelong learning for the entire school community working towards a common vision and shared decision making sharing and celebration