

A+ SCHOOLS OF NC

NEW SCHOOL APPLICATION

**Application is due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025.**

Please limit applications to a maximum of eight pages (1” margins, Times New Roman, 12-point font), plus required attachments. Completed applications may be scanned and emailed, along with all letters of support and attachments, being sure that all documents are legible.

Email completed applications and attachments to:

[michelle.burrows@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:michelle.burrows@dncr.nc.gov).

For assistance in completing this application, please contact:

Michelle Burrows, Director

919.814.6503

919.618.6175 (cell)

[michelle.burrows@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:michelle.burrows@dncr.nc.gov)

Part I: Data Information Sheet

School name:

Principal: Principal email:

Principal direct line: Principal cell phone:

Number of years as administrator at this school:

How did your school learn about A+ Schools of North Carolina?

School Data:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please respond to items 1-6 as indicated on the State Department of Education report as of October 2025 (or most recent data available, indicate data year). | School Total for Data Year\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. Number of classroom teachers |  |
| 1. Number of arts teachers |  |
| 1. Number of other certified staff |  |
| 1. Total number of certified staff |  |
| 1. Number of students (ADM) |  |
| 1. Number of LEP students |  |
| Please respond to items 7-12 with most recent data available. |  |
| 1. Title I School (select one from TAS, SW or not Title I) |  |
| 1. Free/reduced lunch or economically-disadvantaged percentage |  |
| 1. Number of discipline referrals |  |
| 1. Student attendance rate |  |
| 1. Number of student tardies |  |
| 1. Teacher attendance rate |  |

Accountability Data:

Please attach a copy of the most recent N.C. Accountability Data indicating performance and growth data including:

1. Performance: Reporting how school performed on the tests and high school indicators for the current school year
2. Growth: Reporting if school met, exceeded or did not meet growth expectations as defined and calculated in EVAAS
3. Progress: Reporting if school met or did not meet performance and participation targets set for each of the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)
4. Grade: Reporting the school’s letter grade for the past two years

Part II. School and District Information

1. School name:
2. School address:
3. School phone: School fax:
4. Assistant Principal(s):
5. Secretary(ies)/Front Office Staff:
6. School website:
7. What grades does your school serve?
8. What is the start and end time of each school day?
9. School designation: public charter private
10. School community (primarily): rural suburban town urban
11. Racial distribution of students: White \_\_\_% African-American \_\_\_% Hispanic/Latino \_\_\_% Asian-Pacific \_\_\_% Native American \_\_\_% Multi-racial \_\_\_% Other \_\_\_%
12. Percentage of students classified as gifted: \_\_\_\_%
13. Percentage of students classified as having special needs: \_\_\_\_%
14. Do you have a Pre-K program that is either part of your school system or on your campus and what is your relationship with the Pre-K program?
15. Specify the number and type of self-contained, special needs classrooms at your school.
16. Total number of non-certified staff members (full and part time):
17. Average amount of preparation/planning time per week provided to faculty members:
18. Students receive regular instruction from an art educator in:

Visual Arts How often and length of class period?

Dance How often and length of class period?

Drama How often and length of class period?

Music How often and length of class period?

Other, be specific How often and length of class period?

1. Describe current use of technology in the school (1-1, iPads, video conferencing, etc.):

**District Information:**

1. School district: County:
2. Superintendent: Email:

Superintendent Phone:

1. Number of years superintendent has been in office:
2. Total number of students in district:
3. Number of schools in district serving same grade levels as the school making application:
4. How have you shared your interest in becoming an A+ school with your superintendent?

Part III. School Programming Information (use additional pages as needed):

1. How does your school’s curriculum and programming specifically reflect commitment to the arts, creativity and innovation, as well as excellence?
2. List major initiatives, academic programming or philosophies currently underway at your school, and detail the impact of each to date (i.e., district initiatives, special reading program, unique scheduling, discipline process, multi-age classrooms, STEAM or STEM, etc.):
3. List professional development in which staff, administration or district has participated in during the 2024-2025 school year or is planning on participating in for this school year (2025-2026):
4. What school-wide or district curriculum initiatives are in place that impact the use of the N.C. State Standards (i.e., district units, timelines, etc.)?
5. List grants, awards, or honors your school has received and special programs, residencies or projects participated in the last three years:
6. What special challenges does your school face? Please check all that apply, describe each challenge you indicate and what you are doing to overcome each challenge.

Lack of arts teachers (be specific)

High % of at-risk learners

Difficulty filling open positions

High staff turnover

Minimal parent involvement

Financial issues

Overcrowded instructional space

Under enrollment

Need to improve student performance and/or growth

Discipline issues

Other (Please identify)

Part IV. School Commitment and Readiness (Use additional pages as needed):

1. a. What percentage of your staff is in agreement that the A+ Schools model is a good match for your school?

b. What processes did you use to share information about A+ Schools, gather concerns and challenges, and come to a final decision as a staff?

c. Has at least 85% of your certified staff and administration team committed to attend the full five-day A+ Summer Institute on **July 13-16, 2026,** in the Raleigh area?

d. How have you set the expectation of attendance at the five-day A+ Summer Institute for all staff?

1. What is your school’s learning philosophy, how is it being implemented, and how does it complement A+ Schools philosophy?
2. What do you hope to achieve by being part of the A+ Schools network?
3. What strengths/attributes does your school have to share with the A+ network?
4. If selected, how will you measure your success as an A+ school? What goals do you have in mind for your implementation of A+ practice and philosophy?
5. If selected, how will you prioritize intentional, collaborative, cross-grade/cross-discipline planning that takes place during the school day?
6. What community partnerships do you currently have, and what future partnerships do you envision for support of your school’s philosophy and A+ implementation?
7. Do you currently have a relationship with your local arts council and/or a local college or university? If so, describe this relationship.
8. Describe your process for providing information about A+ Schools to and gaining approval from your district superintendent.
9. In what ways will your district support and facilitate A+ implementation? (Ex.: funding, arts educators, equipment, teacher stipends, local control, etc.)
10. If selected, will you be seeking financial support from A+ Schools to help cover the professional development costs for the entry year? *(answer yes or no)*

1. If not, how will you prioritize funding to cover the long-term costs associated with becoming an A+ school including ongoing A+ professional development?
2. If so, please submit fiscal report and narrative as indicated in the attachments section below.

Part V. Attachments

1. Staff Roster: Please attach a staff roster indicating grade/role/position for each staff member (including administration team) as well as the number of years each staff member has been employed at the school.
2. Fiscal Report: If your school will be seeking financial support from A+ Schools, please attach the school’s annual budget from the most recent fiscal year along with a case statement/narrative that specifies the amount of funding support you will be seeking from A+ Schools for Year One, and describes the school’s financial standing, financial priorities, fiscal need, and long-term plan for funding the ongoing implementation of A+ practice and philosophy.
3. Letters of support (maximum one page each) required from:
4. School principal
5. Two teachers in your school
6. A parent, preferably PTA/PTO/PTSA President
7. District Superintendent – Superintendent letter should indicate an understanding of the importance of retaining the principal/school administrator for at least the full three-year implementation period
8. (optional) Partners (local arts council, business/community partners, etc.)

Part VI: Signatures – All signatures are required.

The undersigned individuals support this application for membership in the A+ Schools network, verify that the responses are accurate, and commit to uphold agreements contained herein, pending acceptance by A+ Schools of North Carolina. By virtue of the signatures below, it is agreed that if selected, the school intends to participate fully in the A+ network and in regular A+ network events. In the unlikely event that a school initially accepts and then withdraws from the A+ network after summer planning has commenced, expenses incurred to that point for support of the school’s five-day Summer Institute may be billed back to the school.

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Name of Principal Signature Date

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Name of School Leadership Team Chair Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Superintendent Signature Date

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