

# A+SCHOOLS

OF  
NORTH  
CAROLINA



# THE ARTS FOR TRANSFORMATION

**A+ Schools of North Carolina is a whole-school transformation model that views the arts as fundamental to teaching and learning.** Our schools develop a creative culture in which the state's mandated curriculum is taught through collaboration and multi-discipline integration, with the arts continuously woven into every child's learning experience.



A+ provides the professional development, tools, strategies and support needed to transform schools. Becoming an A+ school means changes in school processes, practices and priorities ranging from assessment to scheduling and collaboration to parent involvement. Each school is empowered to develop its own unique A+ vision.



# HISTORY OF TRANSFORMATION

**Established in North Carolina in 1995 as a public/private partnership, A+ Schools is a signature program of the North Carolina Arts Council.** A+ is the longest-running, arts-based whole-school reform model in the nation, serving more than 25,000 North Carolina students each year.

The A+ network of schools includes pre-K through 12th grades in rural and urban communities. A strong partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction ensures that A+ meets all state curriculum accountability standards.

A+ Schools is a state and national leader in providing professional development that supports the use of arts integration and other creative practices in the classroom. Highly-qualified practitioners lead educators to build creative and engaging learning environments.



# THE A+ ESSENTIALS

The A+ Essentials provide the framework for developing a creative culture that supports each school's unique needs. Over time, these eight foundational components transform a school's practice, priorities and identity—building an environment where teachers and students are excited to learn together.

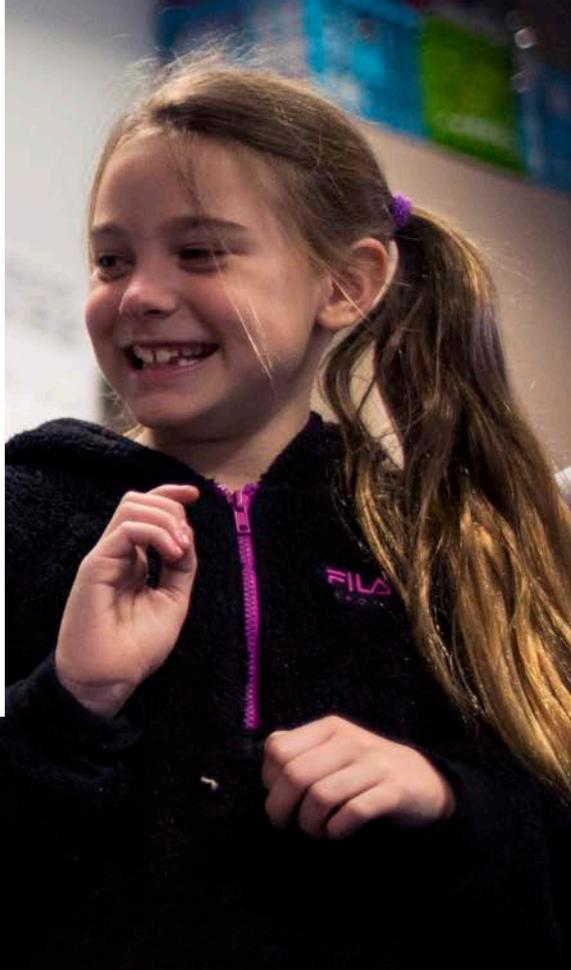


- ARTS
- CURRICULUM
- ENRICHED ASSESSMENT
- MULTIPLE LEARNING PATHWAYS
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
- COLLABORATION
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- CLIMATE



# HOW A+ PERFORMS

Research shows that students' grade-level proficiency increases and schools meet or exceed overall school performance goals following the initial three-year implementation of A+. In fact, students who are traditionally the most marginalized show the largest and most rapid gains. Successful A+ schools report improved attendance, fewer disciplinary problems, stronger teacher satisfaction, and higher levels of community and parental involvement.



# A+ IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Our kids are smiling! You can’t qualify that with numbers, but you feel it the moment you walk in the school.”

PRINCIPAL, A+ MIDDLE SCHOOL

“A+ allows every child to know and understand who they are and to have the tools to grow and become productive and contributing members of society.”

A+ SCHOOL TEACHER

“A+ is a shift in mindset, culture and learning that will better prepare our students and staff for their future.”

DISTRICT CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

“A+ offers opportunities to students that they wouldn’t traditionally have access to. It sparks interests and loves that students may have never discovered otherwise.”

A+ MEDIA SPECIALIST



# A+SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

**A+ SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

<http://aplus-schools.ncdcr.gov>



**A+ SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

is a program of the North Carolina Arts Council,  
an agency of the Department of Natural &  
Cultural Resources