

So, you are interested in becoming an A+ school or know a school that is interested? Below you will be able to read through the process for schools who are exploring the option of entering the A+ Schools Network.

A+ Schools of North Carolina is the nation's longest-running, most successful arts-based whole school transformation model. Newly released research on A+ demonstrates impressive results in school growth, student proficiency and narrowing the achievement gap. A+ also helps schools to build creative, engaging learning environments that allow students to master the state standards while developing their 21st century skills.

Step 1: Letter of Intent

Interested school principals submit a **Letter of Intent Form by June 15, 2021**. This form lets us know that your school is interested in becoming an A+ school and plans to take the necessary steps to find out more about A+. Letter of Intent Forms may be found on the [A+ website](#).

Step 2: A+ Online Summer Conference Observation

Interested schools who have submitted a letter of intent for 2022-2023 entry, may send up to three leaders from their school to observe a day or two of our online summer conference which takes place July 12-16, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. Observers should include the school principal and could also include a district representative or other key leaders/teachers at the school who would be responsible for sharing information with your whole staff. RSVPs are required in order to observe at an online A+ summer conference. Please contact Program Coordinator Jennifer Huggins at jennifer.huggins@ncdcr.gov to reserve a spot.

Step 3: Pre-application Meeting

Interested schools will send a team to a mandatory **pre-application meeting on October 22, 2021**. This meeting will provide more information on what it means to be an A+ school, look deeper into A+ processes, and allow time for Q&A with A+ staff and A+ Fellows. School teams must include the principal, and teams may include district representatives and/or teacher leaders from each interested school. Schools that have submitted a Letter of Intent Form will receive an invitation and registration form for this event by email in September 2021.

Step 4: Sharing Information and Gaining Staff Commitment

Teams from the interested schools who have observed at the summer conference and pre-application meeting will share what they have learned with the rest of their staff, along with the dates of the A+ 5-day Summer Institute that your school would be required to attend in 2022. Each school then surveys their staff and secures a minimum of 85% faculty commitment indicating A+ is the right fit for the school and they want to join the A+ Schools network. A+ staff are available to answer questions and offer support as needed throughout this process.

Step 5: A+ Application

Once the 85% commitment has been obtained, interested schools may submit an application to become an A+ school (the application is available on our [website](#)). **Applications are due no later than Friday, December 3, 2021, at 5 p.m.** and require several letters of support and signatures. Schools will be notified of acceptance by December 17, 2021.

Step 6: Getting Ready

Spring 2022 will allow time for each school to prepare for their first A+ professional development with opportunities for school leadership to attend our A+ Regional Leadership Meetings and to attend pre-arranged visits to several A+ schools.

Step 7: The Summer Institute

New schools will attend five days of A+ training in Raleigh during the summer of 2022. The tentative dates for the **2022 A+ Summer Institute are July 11-15, 2022, in Raleigh**. A minimum of 85% of each school's certified staff plus the administrative team is required to attend. All staff, as well as district representatives, parent leaders and other school stakeholders are also invited to attend. Details and registration for the 2022 Summer Institute will be available during the spring of 2022.

For more information about A+ Schools of North Carolina, please visit our website at <http://www.ncarts.org/aplus-schools> or contact Michelle Burrows, A+ Schools Director, at (919) 618-6175 or by email at michelle.burrows@ncdcr.gov.

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Live Binder: <http://www.tinyurl.com/apluslb>

Access code: A+NCNetwork



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