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 curriculum is taught through collaboration and multi-discipline integration, with the arts woven into every experience.

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.
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.

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 PATHS
- 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+ 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