



A+ Schools Program: Sustainable School Reform **The University of North Carolina at Greensboro**

Fast Facts

- A+ is a comprehensive whole-school reform model, “home-grown” in North Carolina, that views the arts as fundamental to teaching and learning in all subjects.
- A+ prepares teachers to use hands-on instruction and assessment to make state-mandated curriculum accessible to all students, including *NCLB* student subgroups, to eliminate the achievement gap in PreK-12 education.
- A+ currently serves over 18,000 students, 1,400 certified teachers, 400 teacher assistants and 80 administrators in 42 schools located in 25 school districts in North Carolina.
- A+ has developed a Network of 50 master teachers and teaching artists as trainers (A+ Fellows) over the past 12 years. A+ continues its commitment to this “practitioner-based” model of professional development with schools.
- A+ began in 1995 with 25 North Carolina schools in a four-year pilot project. Since then, A+ has expanded to 42 NC schools, developed statewide programs in Oklahoma and Arkansas, implemented pilot projects in South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin, and continues to partner with an educational initiative in London, UK.
- A+ “results” are documented by an extensive, initial four-year evaluation, as well as an eighth-year follow-up evaluation funded by the Ford Foundation. A+ is currently working with the American Institutes for Research to continue the evaluation of the Program and its implementation in North Carolina.
- A+ is supported by public and private funding from the NC General Assembly, UNCG, grants, foundations and contracted services fees. It has received support from the Kenan Institute for the Arts, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Education and multiple private and corporate foundations.
- A+ is recognized in NC as an exemplary program (NCDPI publication *A Balanced Curriculum*), and nationally as an effective, research-based strategy for sustainable school reform. Recent national publications citing the A+ Schools Program include *Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development*, 2002, and *Putting the Arts in the Picture: Reframing Education in the 21st Century*, 2004.

A+ Schools Program at UNCG

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