



Cooperating School Districts

# Legislative Advocacy Information

**Bill Number:** HB 2  
**Bill Sponsor:** Icet  
**Bill Summary:** Education Budget

## CSD Position:

### OPPOSED to this bill

- CSD is opposed to any bill that eliminates funding for teachers' professional development.
- Professional development funding was cut by \$5 million for the current year, and services to teachers and students have been adversely affected because of this.
- The elimination of funds for professional development would likely mean the closure of the nine Regional Professional Development Centers that serve Missouri's teachers.
- More than 250,000 teachers each year receive professional development through Missouri's RPDCs in more than 50 programs.
- Improving the skills of teachers through research-based professional development is the key to improving the education of all Missouri public school children.
- The RPDCs are an essential extension of the professional development program in many of our state's school districts, providing consistent, research-based programs that many districts could otherwise not provide or afford.
- The professional development that is provided through the RPDCs is critical to improving the quality of education that takes place in Missouri's classrooms. RPDC programs help educators develop strategies and techniques to become more effective in their instruction.
- At a time when Missouri's students are competing with others nationally and internationally, the professional development of teachers is a critical component in helping students succeed.
- Eliminating funding for professional development will take away the tools that allow for the effective education of Missouri's children.

## CSD Suggestions:

- Keep funding for professional development at the 2008-2009 funding level of \$15 million.
- Restore funding for professional development to the 2007-2008 funding level of \$20 million.



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### **About Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis, Inc. (CSD)**

CSD is a non-profit education consortium serving 61 public school districts in Missouri – more than 1/3 of the students in our State attend CSD member districts. CSD services to member districts include character education, communications, conferences, cooperative purchasing, educational video programs, insurance, legislative advocacy, professional development, and technology.

### **CSD Contact Information**

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