



Cooperating School Districts

Legislative Advocacy Information

Bill Number: SB 373
Bill Sponsor: Mayer
Bill Summary: Open Enrollment

Creates procedures for open enrollment of public school students across school district boundary lines

CSD Position:

OPPOSED to this bill

CSD is opposed to this bill because of the negative effect it will have on public school districts in Missouri.

- Any open enrollment proposal means that districts would have to accept students who may have a poor academic or behavioral record. These students would require the receiving district to incur additional time and expense to remediate. This could also affect the accreditation status of receiving schools.
- Allowing the student's home school district to pay the receiving school district the smaller of the two districts' per pupil cost could cause financial problems for the receiving district. If a student comes from a district that spends \$9000 per pupil and transfers to a district that spends \$13,000 per pupil, the receiving district will face a \$4000 shortfall for that one student alone.
- Many districts pass bond issues and tax levies to provide classroom space and appropriate staffing to ensure small class sizes for their resident students. Even though the class size may be set at 20, that does not mean that they necessarily want every class to have 20 students. This bill would ensure that class sizes in many districts would be at the "set" level.
- Receiving districts would spend a great deal of time defending themselves against admission decisions.
- A student who lives outside the boundaries of a school district may find it more difficult to arrive at school on time and meet attendance requirements. This could have a detrimental effect on the student and the receiving school.
- Some districts have previously decided that they will not accept any students who do not live within their district. Requiring them to do so would be a loss of local control.
- Parents of kindergarten or first grade students who would ordinarily select a private or parochial school for their child could now send them to another district at the expense of the resident district. This would further reduce the resources for students still attending the resident district plus weaken the enrollment of private and parochial schools.

CSD Suggestions:

- Local school districts should be allowed to determine their own policy for accepting transfer students.
- The state should create a fund to provide financial incentives to districts that voluntarily accept non-resident students.



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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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