



Cooperating School Districts

Legislative Advocacy Information

Bill Number: HB 2111
Bill Sponsor: Muschany
Bill Co-Sponsor: Cunningham
Bill Summary: Charter School

This bill allows charter schools to operate in school districts that are not K-8 districts, have at least 2,000 students, and have been provisionally accredited for any period of three consecutive years since July 1, 1999. Sponsorship by community colleges is expanded to include districts that are in a community college's service area, and sponsorship by public and private colleges and universities is allowed if the college or university has its primary campus in Missouri. The enrollment requirement of at least 1,000 students for private institutions and the geographical limitation on public institutions are removed. Both public and private institutions must have teacher education programs.

CSD Position:

CSD is opposed to the expansion of charter schools beyond those presently established.

- Charter schools are not accountable to the same stringent standards as Missouri public schools and do not participate in the Missouri School Improvement Program, the accreditation process and data-reporting process that holds Missouri public schools accountable.
- Charter schools are exempt from most state laws that govern public schools.
- Charter schools reduce the overall revenue available to children in the public school districts in which they are located.
- A study from the National Center for the Study of Privatization in Education published in January 2006 found that students in regular public schools do as well or significantly better than comparable students in private and charter schools. This large-scale study, financed by the U.S. Department of Education, compared 4th and 8th grade math scores of more than 340,000 students in 13,000 regular public, charter and private schools on the 2003 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), commonly called "the nation's report card."
- In the final report of a four-year study of the federally-funded Public Charter Schools Program, the U.S. Department of Education found that many charter school authorizers lack the capacity to adequately oversee charter school operations, often lack authority to implement formal sanctions, and rarely invoke the authority they do have to revoke or not renew a charter. Where charters have been revoked or not renewed, the decision has been linked to noncompliance with state and federal regulations, and to financial problems more than problems with academic performance.



Cooperating School Districts

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

Executive Director: John Urkevich, jurkevich@csd.org, (314) 692-1206

Asst. Executive Director, Communications & Legislative Services: Kathleen Woehrmann, kwoehrmann@csd.org, (314) 692-1233