



Cooperating School Districts

# Legislative Advocacy Information

**Bill Number:** HB 1676  
**Bill Sponsor:** Hoskins  
**Bill Summary:** Admission of Non-Resident Students

Prior to the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, this bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop criteria for the admission or rejection of nonresident students from unaccredited districts who wish to transfer to an adjoining accredited school district. No student can be rejected except for reasons specified in the criteria.

## CSD Position:

**OPPOSED to this bill as long as it mandates that accredited districts accept students from unaccredited districts.**

- Cost of transportation and tuition paid to receiving districts would further reduce resources for those students who stay in an unaccredited district, making it that much more difficult for those districts to regain accreditation and improve programs.
- The average cost of tuition to maintain grade level grouping does not take into account the high cost of educating many special needs students which would be the responsibility of the taxpayers of the receiving district.
- 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 might be “set” at 20, that does not mean that they necessarily want every class to have 20 students. This bill would ensure that most class sizes would always be at the average level.
- Receiving districts would often be defending themselves against admissions decisions.
- 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.
- Requiring districts to accept transfer students from unaccredited districts is a form of open enrollment which erodes local control.
- Many private school students living within the boundaries of an unaccredited district could use this to transfer to an accredited public school at the expense of the unaccredited district.

## CSD Suggestions:

- Focus additional state resources on helping unaccredited districts improve. The following are some ways this could be done:
  1. Provide unaccredited districts with universal early childhood education.
  2. Provide funds for additional tutoring and remediation for academically struggling students.
  3. Create alternative schools for unruly students.
  4. Create support programs for middle and high school age students at risk of dropping out.
  5. Support the creation of work-study programs for at risk youth.
  6. Require standards based governance training for school boards in unaccredited districts.
  7. Require comprehensive outcome based leadership training for administrators and principals in unaccredited districts.
  8. Provide for more social workers to enhance home-school communication and to facilitate family access to community based support services.
- Allow the processes presently in place to deal with unaccredited districts sufficient time to work.



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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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