



Cooperating School Districts

# Legislative Advocacy Information

**Bill Number:** SB 1092

**Bill Sponsor:** Engler

**Bill Summary:** Creates the Minimum Salary Fund for Teachers to provide minimum salary supplements to public school teachers

This act creates the Minimum Salary for Teachers Program and establishes procedures for qualifying school districts to receive funds to pay minimum salary supplements to teachers. A minimum salary supplement is the difference between a school district's salary schedule and the minimum salary identified in the act.

## CSD Position:

**CSD is not opposed to raising the pay of all public school educators in the state. CSD has concerns relative to equity and costs related to the proposed increases.**

- CSD is concerned this bill would unevenly distribute a very large amount of money to a number of school districts, while other districts would gain relatively little benefit from the funds.
- A number of districts which would benefit a great deal from this legislation are not necessarily poor districts. They have chosen to keep their local tax levies low resulting in lower teacher pay.
- A number of districts which would receive little benefit from this bill are not necessarily rich districts, but rather districts whose voters have passed tax levies designed to pay their teachers a higher salary.
- Many districts have formulas where all salaries are calculated off a percentage of the base salary. Raising the base salary could have serious repercussions throughout the entire district's salary schedule and extra curricular pay schedules.
- The cost of funding the benefit package associated with higher salaries needs to be considered.

## CSD Suggestions:

- CSD understands that there are districts in Missouri, which are truly poor and have few options for paying teachers higher salaries, regardless of what their voters approved. Legislation that would identify those districts and provide a greater measure of state assistance with salaries would be understandable.
- After special assistance is given to truly needy districts, the remainder of available funds should be placed in the formula to target the needs of students as determined by the individual districts. This could include raising teacher pay.



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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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