



MISSOURI COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1

SPECIAL EDUCATOR RECRUITING, PREPARING, & RETAINING

- High-quality preservice experiences for educator candidates-internships and residency
- Allow alternative pathways to obtain certification in special education
- Increase funding for loan forgiveness and/or scholarships
- Promote grow-your-own programs to recruit special education teacher candidates
- Increase teacher pay specifically for special education professionals,

2

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Mental health services are needed to address social, emotional, and behavioral needs
- Access to school mental health services from qualified providers (school psychologists and master's level school social workers)
- Coordinated effort between service agencies (mental health, education, Medicaid, private insurance)

3

EQUITABLE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVING PUBLIC FUNDS

- Appropriate accountability for all schools receiving public funds
- Required to provide special education services and follow the Federal IDEA law
- Ensure a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities
- Equitable accountability across all schools that receive any form of federal funds (scholarship program, tax incentive, school voucher, and the like)

4

OPEN ENROLLMENT - HB 253 SPONSOR: BRAD POLLITT, SEDALIA

- Encourages discrimination-option to not accept a student with a disability
- Contradictory as it states districts can't discriminate based on disabilities, but the district can reject students with a disability from entry
- Transportation confusion-nonresident district not required to provide transportation
- No option within the IDEA for the parent to waive a related service (transportation)
- Case law addressing this concern. This creates a discriminatory act.

5

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR STUDENTS WITH AN IEP-HB 1163 SPONSOR: TARA PETERS, ROLLA

- Federal IDEA statute already specifies required IEP consent
- If consent is not obtained on certain IEP services or placement, the child's new IEP shall be implemented in areas of agreement AND the child's last agreed upon IEP shall remain in effect in the areas of disagreement.
- Creates a situation where teachers are working from multiple IEPs for a given student.
- Educators and families need a completed plan to work from

6

BURDEN OF PROOF IN DUE PROCESS - HB 661 SPONSOR: TRAVIS SMITH, OZARK

- Burden of proof currently falls to the party who files the complaint; school district/parent
- In criminal and civil cases, it's the prosecutor and plaintiff, respectively that have the burden to prove the claims
- Continue with the person who files a complaint as the requirement for burden of proof