

HB 1281 -- St. Louis Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act

Sponsor: Stream

This bill establishes the St. Louis Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act, which specifies the guidelines for establishing and administering a successor school district for the City of St. Louis public school district. Currently, the district is referred to as a metropolitan district; the bill establishes a metropolitan successor district with at least five metro districts. The special administrative board of the transitional district is required to submit a plan by November 2008 for the division of the district into the metro districts, which will have most of the powers of the current school district but will operate for tax purposes under the governing council of the metropolitan successor district. Each metro district is to be drawn so as to have one high school with its feeder middle and elementary schools. Hiring in the metro districts will be at the recommendation of the principal from the building to which the employee is assigned, with the approval of the superintendent. The superintendent will hire administrative staff. The governing council is made up of one member of each metro district and will have budget authority. The council will create a public review committee to examine its structure and operations every four years. The bill also changes the powers of the superintendent.

The special administrative board of the transitional district is required to place every child from kindergarten through third grade in a reading and a math program until the student reaches proficiency, for which it must earmark funds; create a performance-based evaluation and assessment program for teachers; and earmark funds for principal training and alternative schools.