

HB 904 -- Missouri Parent/Teacher Involvement Act

Sponsor: Butler

This bill establishes the Missouri Parent/Teacher Involvement Act to provide grant awards to schools to develop and build trusting relationships between families and school staff. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must coordinate and administer the program. Schools serving grades K-12 must operate programs that meet the following requirements:

- (a) At least 50% of the school's staff must voluntarily agree to participate in periodic home visits or community meetings;
- (b) A school must establish, prior to the commencement of home visits, a compact in which parents and legal guardians agree to participate in periodic home visits or community meetings;
- (c) A teacher who participates in the program must receive training in strategies for communicating effectively with parents and guardians and in conducting periodic home visits or community meetings. These strategies may include guidance on how to help parents reinforce educational objectives at home;
- (d) School staff and other support staff must be compensated for their participation in the program at an hourly rate that is at least the hourly rate derived from their regular base salary; and
- (e) All visits and meetings must be conducted by a pair or team that includes at least one staff member, and in the case of a K-5 school, the student's classroom teacher.

Beginning in school year 2014-2015, each school board must adopt a policy on parental involvement in the schools of the district that must contain elements on the importance of parental involvement; how and when to assist their children's classroom learning activities; and techniques, strategies, and skills to use at home to improve their children's academic success and academic efforts. The State Board of Education within the department must adopt recommendations for the development of parental involvement policies.

The bill creates the Missouri Parent/Teacher Involvement Program Fund consisting of moneys appropriated for the program.

The provisions of the bill expire six years after the effective date.